

THE NONCONFORMIST.

"The dissidence of dissent and the protestantism of the protestant religion."

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

THE SOCIAL STATE.

WE enter, this week, upon another general department of the subject we have undertaken to discuss. Another series of views illustrative of the voluntary principle will now pass under notice. We propose, in pursuance of our original design, to contemplate those aspects of the question which look towards man in a social state. We have already seen the harmony of the principle with the essential characteristics of his mind, regard being had to him in his individual capacity. To stop short here, however, would be to leave our task unfinished. With the permission of our readers, therefore, upon whose patience we will presume, in the hope that at the close of our course they will enjoy some satisfaction in looking back over the whole breadth of the country traversed, we shall, without further preface, strike into a new region of thought, and direct attention to the voluntary principle in connexion with the tendencies, wants, dangers, and advantages of SOCIETY. We venture again to solicit, as due to the subject, defective as may be our mode of exhibiting it, attentive consideration; and to repeat our sanguine expectation that the department upon which we now enter will be found to furnish us with unobtrusive specimens of moral beauty not less rich and varied than those already glanced at.

"Two are better than one," said the wise man, and the practice and experience of all ages have ratified the truth of the maxim. Hence the existence of society—a state of being towards which irresistible propensities determine all men, as affording the only known scope for the exercise of passions, tastes, principles, which in solitary life would lie for ever undeveloped. More than half the capacities of man's nature would remain void, and by disuse shrivel up to mere unseemly incubstances—more than half his passions would be dormant, and his tendencies unvegetative, like seed-corn upon a granite rock, but for the association of individuals into families, of families into local communities, and of these again into nations. Minds thrown together into masses undergo a species of fermentation, and the entire body passes into a result differing materially in character from any thing which individual existence could have exemplified. Organised society brings out into activity wants, tendencies, and perils, peculiarly its own. Conventional modes of existence create conventional laws—and man in social life demands, in order to fitting treatment, an adaptation of appliances and means calculated to meet the new and peculiar features of his case.

Christianity, as a remedial scheme, especially and chiefly affects us individually. But not exclusively so. Incidentally, and (if we may so express it) by the bye, it scatters in its progress a thousand social blessings. Not, indeed, that we discover in it any preceptive directions as to the forms, habitudes, and civil polities, into which society shall be cast. It interferes with no customs, and debars no pursuits, but those which essentially involve sin. It prescribes no fashions. It reveals no improved modes of living. It leaves all these things to the regulation of those common providential laws constantly operating upon, and ultimately determining the character of, social communities. But then it enounces principles the knowledge, appreciation, and practice of which, tend more or less directly to the refinement of society, and to bring about, not by immediate interference, but by silent, unseen influences, changes of the most extensive and beneficial character. There is nothing in it to loosen the bonds of society—nothing to disturb the peaceful and harmonious working of the complicated machine. It introduces no explosive elements—but, so far as it acts, acts as oil to the wheels, eases every movement, checks every tendency to disorganisation, and lends most efficient aid in drawing out from the social mode of being all its peculiar advantages.

Something of the same kind of adaptation we may fairly look for in the means adopted for the support of Christian institutions. Herein the principle which regulates the provision and sustentation of religious teaching should, certainly, harmonise with the religion itself. And such harmony we take to be no improper or inaccurate test of the soundness of the principle. If, for example, we find it characteristic of any given system that, of

necessity, it chafes the natural asperities of human temper, creates heat, causes the falling of society into separate classes, or gets into constant entanglement with forms of civil polity—if it checks the spirit of inquiry, discountenances enterprise, views all improvement with suspicion—if it brings about such relative positions of parties as serve to inflame in one the lust of power, and to irritate in the other the sense of discontent—then, surely, we cannot well be deceived in the conclusion that that system is radically unsound.

The voluntary principle will appear, we trust, not negatively only, but positively, in unison with the wants and tendencies of human society—not merely does no harm in this particular direction, but does good. That it comes into collision at no point with civil authority, and leaves the forms of civil institutions perfectly undisturbed—that it excites no rivalry but the rivalry of benevolence—promotes no division but a division of labour, we regard as no mean recommendation of its claims. But what if it exerts a beneficial influence upon society of a more positive kind? What, if it awakens anxious inquiry after truth? What, if it fosters honourable emulation? What, if it promotes philanthropic enterprise? What, if it draws together more closely those social ties which will eventually comprehend in one brotherhood the whole family of man? In such case shall we not be warranted in cherishing for the voluntary principle an earnest attachment, and in demanding of those who put it in the same category with drunkenness, at what school of morals they studied, that they "call evil good, and good evil?"

BALLAD SINGING EXTRAORDINARY.

IT is told of a certain Roman emperor who had drunk the cup of sensuality to its very dregs, that he offered a particularly handsome reward to any man who would invent a new pleasure. 'Tis a thousand pities, both for his own sake, likewise for that of the Rev. John M. Neale, B.A., of Trinity college, Cambridge, that he did not live in the year of the Christian dispensation, eighteen hundred and forty three. The said Rev. John M. Neale, has made the discovery so strongly desired by the imperial gent. of yore. Blessed with a genius, before which all preceding worthies must veil and do reverential homage, this gentleman, doubtless after protracted musings and deep research, has lighted upon a new agent, destined to effect a peaceful, and we may add grateful, revolution in the popular mind.

The novel source of enjoyment which this truly benignant clergyman has unsealed—the pure spring at which wretched humanity may drink for nothing, and be happy—the pastime which is to supersede all others, and give free play to all the now sleeping emotions of the poor man's heart, is ecclesiastical ballad singing. How will the toils of the loom and the stocking frame be relieved, and the heavier labours of the ploughman be lightened in all time to come! What streams of exquisite pleasure will gush up from the secret depth of their souls, as, amid the wearisomeness of daily work, they give vocal expression to the charming sentiments put into their mouths by the Rev. John M. Neale! Ah! we think we see the wan face of care, long a stranger to smiles, relaxing into complacency, or flushed with unspeakable ecstasy, whilst to the tune of "The good old English gentleman," the following stanzas are poured forth in song:—

"The good old church of England!
With her priests through all the land,
And her twenty thousand churches,
How nobly does she stand!
Dissenters are like mushrooms,
That flourish but a day;
Twelve hundred years through smiles and tears,
She hath lasted on alway."

The pathos and piety of this effusion, and the delicious poetical imagery and rhythm of it, especially of the last line, are strangely apt to touch the feelings of the artisan and the labourer—and honest pride, the pride of our dusty sons of toil, with what gleaming, radiant satisfaction, will it shout—

"The brave old church of England!
She hath conquered many a foe;
She had martyrs to her children,
A thousand years ago;
She hath princes more than I can tell,
Who by her side have stood;
Like King Charles the blessed martyr,
And old King George the good."

But another vision of unalloyed happiness rises up before us, conjured into being by the ravishing voice of song. Hark! to those clear tones of pleased and satisfied womanhood, which come struggling through the chinks of No. 7 in yon alley, mellowed by the very impediments which they have had to overcome. Glance in at the broken window, and see, in a little narrow chamber, two families whom it serves "for parlour and kitchen and all" (for the spirit of the muses is upon us); and who, having between them many children, have less room for furniture, and consequently do without any. One of the matrons within, as she stands at the wash-tub, is chaunting her delight to her neighbour wringing out wet sheets, hard by:—

"You may tell me of the meeting where you dissenters go;
You may tell me of the liberty that you dissenters know;
I am little of a scholar, but the question is not long—
For he who stays away from church I know is going wrong;
There is a way that seemeth right, the holy scripture saith,
In a man's own eyes, as yours does now, but the end thereof is death."

"There is reason in roasting an egg," says the proverb, and there are many reasons for going to one's parish church. Amongst many assigned by the sweet singer, none is more amiably feminine, none brings with it such a crowd of sparkling associations, as the following:—

"It was in church, that happy day, the happiest of my life,
That my husband said 'I take thee to be my wedded wife'
To have and hold, from this day forth, in sickness and in health,
For better and for worse, and in want as well as wealth:
And I scarcely think, whatever you dissenters choose to say,
That she's an honest woman who weds another way."

We might remark, were we not pressed for time, upon the ingenuity of the reverend ballad poet, in thus stealthily insinuating purity of sentiment into woman's heart, whilst ministering to her gratification. There is an economy of moral influence about it, which none but a master mind could hit upon. In some sense we may say of him as Cowper said of John Gilpin—

"That though on pleasure he was bent
He had a frugal mind."

But we must hasten on. We wish to give our readers a notion of the fund of wholesome enjoyment provided by this gifted son of the church, for the poor. And it would seem as though all passing events favoured the full development of this truly original scheme. Is not Mainzer abroad, teaching the millions to sing? Are not musical composers hotly competing with each other in throwing off strains of melody adapted to popular wants? Who shall venture to say that the period is far distant, when on Easter Tuesday, year by year, assembled thousands shall join in chorus, the burden of which shall be—

"Throw out the church rate! 'Live and learn'
The proverb well may say:
I never heard of such a thing,
And trust I never may.
I know that church rates are a debt
To God Almighty due;
And how dares any Christian man
Call them a hardship too?"

How, indeed! more especially when he duly considers what follows—

"Where is the man who does not hate
All falsehood and deceit?
And he who will not pay his rate,
I think a downright cheat.
He bought his land for less, because
That rent-charge on it lay;
And so he cheats the seller now
By doing it away."

Very likely! For our own parts, however, we don't clearly see how the seller is affected by the proceeding. But this is neither here nor there, as the poet says. At all events, we may well anticipate that men, thoroughly indoctrinated with the above, would find a pure and holy satisfaction in making the welkin ring again with the stanza below—

"Though baptists, chartists, infidels,
Have set upon her sore;
Wesleyans, independents,
And other sects, a score;
Yet how can we forsake her,
When she alone hath power
To guard and guide us while we live
And bless our dying hour?"

Ridicule apart! Would our readers believe that

*John Henry Davis
4. Gram Com
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these specimens of wretched doggrel, and still more wretched priestmancy were taken at random from a tract recently published, filled with similar stuff, and entitled "Songs and Ballads FOR THE PEOPLE;" written, moreover, by a clergyman, who does not blush to give his own name in full, duly followed by his academical degree, and the name of his *alma mater*! The little bigoted mind which could cherish sentiments like those above, the besotted stupidity which could deliberately put them into rhyme and print them, and the marvelous ignorance of human nature and of English society which could imagine that any poor man, who could read, would read these effusions with any other view than to enjoy a laugh at the author's expense, or that any mechanic, having a voice to sing, would while away his hours in singing ditties in praise of church rates, or in honour of King Charles the Martyr and Archbishop Laud, beat anything of the same kind it has yet been our lot to witness. If the church fancies it will win the masses by such means, in the name of folly, let her try! All we can say is, that a university education, which produces results such as those at which we have glanced above, is much fitter for lords than for common people—in other words, it is but ill adapted for men whose position in life will require a single grain of common sense.

CHURCH RATES.—ROTHERTHITHE.—A curious agitation on this subject has lately been awakened in this parish. It appears that for some years past many of the parishioners have neglected to pay the church rates, while others have readily done so. The consequence has been, that a portion of the inhabitants have been compelled to bear more than their fair share of this public burthen, and of late the churchwardens have been pressed to enforce the rates against all liable to pay them, and thus to do equal justice to the parishioners. A very crowded vestry meeting was therefore held, on Thursday week, in the committee room of the workhouse of the parish of St Mary, Rotherhithe, "for the purpose of advising the churchwardens as to the proper course to be taken for the enforcement of the church rates against defaulters in the payment thereof." The Rev. E. Blick, the rector, presided. Mr Simpson moved, and Mr Hay seconded, that the churchwardens should forthwith enforce the payment of the rates. Upon this, an amendment was proposed by Mr Lennell, seconded by Mr Sampson, that the vestry meeting should be adjourned to that day six months. Mr Courteen (solicitor) read an opinion given by Dr Addams (of Doctors' Commons) upon the question, which was decidedly adverse to the special objections of the defaulters, and declared that the rates, having been agreed to in public vestry, were perfectly legal, and could not be evaded. Notwithstanding this opinion from so high an authority, the defaulters persisted in their amendment, and the question was decided by the polling of the parish on Monday, the 30th ult. Every exertion was made by the church party; the rector preached two sermons on the subject; the parish was besprinkled with placards; and reluctant voters were plied with promises and threats. The result was—there were in favour of the resolution, 282; for the adjournment, 127: majority, 155. The number of persons composing the majority consists only of 170, out of a parish of nearly 14,000 inhabitants. The object of the church party seems to be to drag the defaulters into the mazy precincts of the ecclesiastical courts. Whether they will thus follow up their victory remains to be seen.

THE BIBLE SOCIETY.—A correspondent on whose testimony we can safely rely sends us the following:—"Towards the close of the year 1840, I heard one of the agents of the Bible society allude to the agitation in reference to the bible monopoly, in an immense meeting of the society held in the Corn exchange, Manchester. So far, however, from approving and promoting that agitation, he condemned it, parading the celebrated letter of the great monopolist himself, then just published, which letter he said he should try to get inserted in the newspapers of the town before he left it. He was very sarcastic, or rather, tried to be so, upon the subject, ridiculing Drs Campbell and Thomson, and even insinuating that the promoters of the agitation were not actuated by the purest motives. I thought this too bad at the time, especially as the society professed not to interfere; and now that it seems anxious to diminish the just wages of workmen, I feel it right to let it be known that some of its public agents have sought to sustain the unjust gains of the monopoly of that very word of life which they exist, as a society, solely for the purpose of circulating."

THE COLCHESTER BIBLE SOCIETY.—A short time ago Mr Vincent delivered a lecture on complete suffrage at Colchester, in the room used by the committee of the Bible society. In consequence of that circumstance, the committee lately passed a resolution that their depository of bibles be removed from the premises. Two only out of the number opposed the motion, though the chair was occupied by a professed liberal, and a member of a dissenting church. Not that the room had always been exclusively appropriated to the purpose for which it was more especially engaged: far from it. The delicate scruples of the committee could remain asleep, though its walls have frequently re-echoed with the fierce harangues and denunciations of Mr Lord, the noted traveling agent of the Protestant association; yea, though it may have been desecrated to the secular purposes of a pro-corn-law meeting; but to pollute its sacred precincts with the presence of a lecturer on complete suffrage—a person whose only weapon was argument, whose every address inculcated moral principle and a regard

to peace, was more than the weak nerves of these sensitive gentlemen could bear. Not even fumigation would suffice to drive out the noxious atmosphere that might possibly taint their virtuous susceptibilities, or, what was still more to be feared, impart the infection.

THE BRISTOL TOWN COUNCIL AND DISSENT.—At the meeting of the Bristol Town council, on Wednesday last, Mr Thomas referred to an application that had been made to them at their last quarterly meeting, requesting the grant of a piece of land, for the purpose of building a dissenting chapel and school house at Hinton. The application appeared in the shape of a memorial from three members of each of six of the dissenting congregations of Bristol, who stated their object, and of course their willingness to pay a rent for the same. The proposition was then set aside as irregular.

He (Mr Thomas) thought they ought not to refuse the grant of a piece of land when they could dispose of it with advantage, unless it was required for any bad purpose. He believed that it was admitted on all hands that the body of dissenters by whom the present application was made had been extremely useful in the neighbourhood of that city, more especially at Kingswood and places adjacent. He believed it might be said that they had civilised a class of men who, in his time, had been the terror of that city. Not very many years ago fears were entertained of the men to whom he alluded, and it was felt that the citizens were exposed in their lives and property to the lawless combinations of men from that part of the country. The dissenters had civilised, as it were, and completely changed the habits of this people; and Cockroad now had its chapel and its school house, and was no longer a bye-word and a terror. He therefore moved that the application be acceded to. Mr Powell opposed the grant, asserting, as the ground of his opposition, that such a grant was contrary to the wishes of the inhabitants. A memorial was then produced, which he said, was signed by Sir G. D. Scott, and sixty-four householders of the place. He then read a letter from the Rev. W. S. Robinson, rector of the parish, which at once displays the real ground of opposition to the grant. Here are two extracts:

"The charge of intolerance falls upon me harmless; in endeavouring to prevent the spread of dissent, I am doing no more than acting up to the admonition of the bishop who ordained me, who addressed to me these solemn words:—'See that you never cease your labour, your care and diligence, till you have done all that lieth in you, according to your bounden duty, to bring all such as are or shall be committed to your charge unto the agreement in the faith and knowledge of God, and to that ripeness and perfectness of age in Christ, that there be no place left among you either for error in religion or for viciousness in life.'"

"It is not for me to attribute motives to any man or set of men, but the object of the parties who thus intrude themselves where their presence is not desired is too marked to be mistaken. I can only hope that the Town council of Bristol will not range themselves with the adversaries of the church, against a clergyman whose only desire is to keep the unity of faith in the bond of peace; and, with many apologies for troubling you, I must leave this statement of the case in your hands."

Mr Powell then said that he could not, without violating the oath he had taken at his election of town councillor, which requires that he should "never exercise any power, authority, or influence which I may possess by virtue of the office of councillor, to injure or weaken the protestant church as it is by law established in England, or to disturb the said church, or the bishops and clergy of the said church, in the possession of any rights or privileges to which such church or the said bishops and clergy are or may be by law entitled," accede to the grant. The amendment he proposed runs thus:—

"That the application now made by certain sectarians, for a piece of land out of the corporation estates at Hinton, in the parish of Dyrham, on which to build a dissenting chapel, being utterly in opposition to the wishes, wants, and feelings of the inhabitants and householders of the said parish, as set forth in their memorial, now presented; and that such a grant, for sectarian purposes, being wholly inconsistent with the spirit and principles of the British constitution, as by law established, and likewise contrary to the solemn declaration, as made by each member of the council, on entering upon his corporate duties—it is hereby resolved that the application for the said grant be unreservedly rejected by this house."

A discussion then took place, and another memorial was produced, signed by fifty-three persons in the parish, in favour of the grant. From the speeches delivered on the occasion, we gather that the memorialists had separated from the church since 1819—that they had assembled for public worship in a kitchen—that their numbers increased beyond their accommodation—and that their application to purchase a piece of ground of the corporation to build a school room and meeting house had been once or twice refused. The conclusion of the discussion we give entire, as indicative of the wisdom of these worthy councillors.

Mr BISSETT.—It is a question of principle (applause).

Mr THOMAS.—There is no principle involved. It is not whether the church of England or dissent shall prevail. It should be borne in mind that the church of England is a dissenting church (loud cries of "no, no," and cries of "question," which drowned part of the sentence, and we only caught the speaker's concluding words). The views seem to entertain are certainly more fit for the fifteenth century than for the nineteenth (no, no, and applause).

Several gentlemen requested Mr Powell to withdraw his amendment.

Mr VISGER protested against his doing so, and was about to explain his reasons, when a scene occurred such as we believe was never before witnessed within the walls of our council chamber. Every time Mr V. attempted to speak he was assailed with bellowing, thumping, and roars of "question," "divide," "order," "chair," "speak," &c., which rendered him completely inaudible.

The MAYOR interposed twice or thrice, but with little better success, till at length his worship said, "The real question now, gentlemen, is, will you or will you not support me in the chair?"

This spirited and proper rebuke restored the house to something like order; and the mayor having decided that Mr Visger had a right to speak, and should be heard—

Mr VISGER said he had seconded the amendment because he wished it to be placed on record. It met the question on the broad principle in an open, fair, straightforward, and manly manner, and it stated the grounds on which the resolution was to be come to. For these reasons he wished it to be recorded.

The house at length divided on Mr Powell's amendment, when there appeared for it one only, namely, Mr Powell himself; against it forty-three.

The house then divided on the original motion, when there appeared, for it 18, against it 26. The grant was accordingly refused.

CHURCH AND DISSENT.—The following is taken from an address by the second senior vicar of the Lincoln cathedral, published in the *Lincolnshire Chronicle*:

NEW CHURCH, NEWPORT, LINCOLN.

"The undersigned begs to return his most sincere thanks to the friends of the establishment by whose prompt assistance he has been enabled to remove the most pressing causes which, in some measure, impeded the usefulness of his church. He is happy to announce that the result of the outlay seems to be satisfactory, in spite of an opposition and influence which cannot possibly be the offspring of religious principles. However, the church being now warmed with a good stove, the walls in a great measure secured from wet, the doors properly inclosed, and many of the seats supplied with backs, that opposition and those influences are comparatively impotent. The rising generation may be fêched away from the establishment by half-teaching schools, medals, begging cards, tracts, and tea-drinkings; but it is certain that attachment to church principles is yet too strong for dissent, and the people still prefer those sacred truths, which the catholic and apostolic church has in all ages dutifully received, to those sudden conversions, new lights, and gifts of grace, which are sought to be made by their meagre substitutes."

"RICHARD GARVEY,
Vicar of St Nicholas with St John's."
"Lincoln, Jan. 25, 1843."

There is only one dissenting chapel in Newport—a Wesleyan. The church itself has no Sunday school at all in Newport. The Wesleyans have about two hundred children in their Sunday school, and once a year, during the races, give the children tea to keep them away; while the minster bells have rung an hour and a half sooner on those race days for prayers, in order that the clergy might be in time for the races, until the bishop, within the last year or two, put a stop to it.—*From a Correspondent.*

THE CHURCH.—We understand the government is much engaged with the affairs of the church, and considerable improvements are likely to be submitted to the House of Commons early in the approaching session. On Tuesday morning the Archbishop of Canterbury waited upon Sir R. Peel, and, with Lord Stanley, Sir J. Graham, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, &c., they were occupied several hours in deliberation. Several divines were also present. The Bishop of London was unable to attend on account of his indisposition.—*Standard.*

COMMISSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

THE extraordinary meeting of the commission of the General Assembly, called by request of the special commission appointed by the General Assembly, met yesterday week, Edinburgh, in the high church—the Rev. Dr Welsh, moderator of Assembly, in the chair—and after the usual devotional exercises, adjourned to Tolbooth church. The attendance of members was pretty full. The first point raised, however, was one respecting the constitution of the commission.

Dr Cook referred to a recent decision of the court of Session, in the Stewarton case, against the title of the *quoad sacra* ministers to sit in the church courts; and he moved a resolution, that in conformity with that decision, the commission should refuse to enrol in the *sederunt* the names of any such members, or to hold them as entitled to deliberate or to vote on what might come under its consideration.

Mr DUNLOP, at some length, contended that the question of appeal could not yet be determined, because the presbytery of Stewarton, with whom that question lay, only met for the first time to-day. It was therefore to be presumed that the case would be appealed, and under these circumstances there was no need for the commission taking up the case; but besides that, he could not see how the commission, a body appointed by the Assembly, could question the authority which had appointed them. He then proceeded to lament the decision of the court of Session, and went on to express his disappointment at the Stewarton decision—he had witnessed with delight the admission to the church of the Highland and other *quoad sacra* ministers. I have since, he said, seen the blessed fruits of their admission; and now, since I am doomed to witness the overthrow of the whole, I have lived long enough in the established church; and I will avow that it will relieve me, in a great degree, of the pain and sorrow I feel in being compelled to quit the establishment, when I see these results—when I see that, by the act of the state, the free-will offerings of the people are overthrown, crushed, and trampled under feet; and that, instead of being received with gratitude and thankfulness, they are denounced as atrocious usurpations of power, as insidious encroachments upon the civil authority. I move that this commission approve of the calling of the meeting, and now proceed to the business of the day.

Mr Bisset, of Bourtric, seconded the motion of Dr Cook.

After some observations from Dr BRUNTON, Mr CUNNINGHAM, Dr HILL, and Dr CANDLISH, the commission divided, when 116 voted for Mr Dunlop's motion, and 23 for Dr Cook's.

After a division, Mr BISSET, of Bourtric, took a protest in the hands of a notary public, to the effect that the commission was radically vitiated by the motion just carried, and which recognised the right of these *quoad sacra* ministers to sit as members of the court.

Immediately afterwards Dr Cook and the minority left the commission.

Dr CANDLISH then rose to bring under the notice of the commission the immediate and momentous business of the meeting. The rev. doctor was exceedingly energetic and eloquent, and concluded by moving various resolutions indicative of the course which the church was now to pursue, namely, to make a last appeal to the legislature. After the answer of the government, he regretted to say that he and his friends entertained little or no hope of its success. Still the church conceived it was duty

to take this step, and obtain the opinion of the legislature, either express or tacit, upon their claims. If the appeal was unsuccessful, as they had too much reason to suppose, it would then be their duty not to remain longer in connexion with the church of Scotland. The rev. doctor concluded by reading various resolutions, which appear to be for the most part a condensation of the views contained in the "minute." The following is the most important:—

V. The proceedings which have taken place since the meeting of the General Assembly, by whom the claim of rights—particularly the second judgment of the House of Lords in the Auchterarder case, finding spiritual courts liable in civil damages, in respect of the exercises of their functions in the admission of ministers—together with the decision of the court of Session, interdicting and suspending the acts of spiritual courts, in regulating the cure of souls and the right of ruling in the church—render it, in the opinion of the commission, more than ever clearly indispensable that any measure proposed for the settlement of the existing difficulties of the church, must effectually redress those grievances complained of, and secure the church again from such encroachments of the civil courts in time to come.

And the commission consider it necessary to repeat explicitly, what is intimated in the claim of rights, that if the church do not obtain the redress sought, and, by failure to obtain such redress, the church find virtually adopted and sanctioned by the legislature the law as recently declared by the civil courts, and authorise the jurisdiction in matters spiritual asserted by them, no result can be anticipated but that those of her office-bearers and members who adhere to the great doctrines and principles for which she is now contending, must renounce their present connexion with the state, and abandon the temporal benefits of an establishment, which will in that case be practically and in effect clogged with conditions which they cannot in conscience fulfil.

The court then adjourned, and re-assembled at seven o'clock in the evening.

The debate was resumed by Dr Begg of New Monkland, who seconded Dr Candlish's resolutions.

Dr Chalmers followed in a characteristic speech, the main object of which appeared to be, to show that the Veto act was not, as was generally believed, the source of the church's present difficulties; and that although it was repealed, it would not relieve the church from her great grievance—the encroachments of the court of Session—while it would render her perfectly ridiculous in the eyes of the world.

Mr JAMES MONCREIFF, while approving generally of the motion, disapproved of the idea of immediately seceding from the church if all their demands were not immediately complied with. He would take a non-intrusion measure which would effectually protect the church against the encroachments of the civil courts; and, having obtained that vantage ground, he would then "continue to fight the battle of the constitution."

Dr CANDLISH's motion was carried, with a single dissentient.

A committee was then appointed to prepare a petition; which they did. It was adopted by the commission; and copies of it were ordered to be sent to the Duke of Argyll and Mr Fox Maule, for presentation to the two Houses of parliament.

A reference having been made to the commission from the presbytery of Edinburgh, requesting advice as to what was the duty of the inferior church courts under the decision of the Stewarton case, the commission, at the suggestion of Dr Candlish, directed that presbyteries should go on transacting their ordinary business, and all matters where no difference of opinion existed; but in cases, such as settlements, where there were litigating parties, to refer them to the superior church courts.

CULSAMOND CASE.—We are authorised to state, that the appeal taken to the house of Lords, in name of the dissentient parisioners of Culsamond, against the decision of the court of Session, by which the settlement of the Rev. Mr Middleton was sustained as valid—has been abandoned, by directions from the law committee of the General Assembly. The decision of the court below must now, therefore, be regarded as final and conclusive of one of the great church cases which have recently occupied so much of the public attention, and excited so much interest.—*Caledonian Mercury*.

MEETING OF THE ELDERS OF THE SCOTCH CHURCH.—We understand that a meeting of elders from all parts of Scotland was held on Wednesday in St Luke's church, to adopt measures for providing for the support of the church when separated from the state. There was a very large attendance of elders, the body of the church being completely filled. The public were not admitted. The Lord Provost was called to the chair. A scheme for providing churches, and supporting the ministers in the event of their being compelled to abandon the benefits of the establishment, was submitted to the meeting, and approved of. Dr Chalmers was afterwards introduced to the meeting, and pointed out the practicability and easy method of working the collection of the fund; stating, that in the parish of Morningside, where such a scheme had been in operation for only four weeks, they were already contributing at the rate of £350 a-year. The scheme was unanimously approved of; as was also a memorial to government on the part of the elders.—*Scotsman*.

PREPARES FOR SECEDED.—The meeting of Wednesday (elders) appointed a large committee to meet with the committee of Convocation. On Thursday, this joint committee met and appointed three sub-committees:—1st, a fund committee, with Dr Chalmers as convener; 2d, a building committee, with Mr Dunlop as convener; and, 3d, a statistical committee, whose business it will be to ascertain where new churches are required, to receive communications from various localities, &c., with Dr Candlish as convener. At this meeting also, we are happy to say, the business of receiving subscrip-

tions commenced. More than one name for £1,000 was put down on the spot; and there were many sums of £500, £300, £200, and £100. Altogether, the subscriptions at that meeting would amount to about £10,000, for the building fund, and £3,000 a-year for the stipendiary fund. It is said that a few elders in Glasgow have raised £8,000 among them. So that the work of subscription has commenced fairly and flourishingly. Let it go on and prosper. It will be seen how Scotch generosity, backed by Scotch presbyterianism, will beggar and put to the blush the stunted generosity of political partisans, backed by anything whatever.—*Aberdeen Banner*.

Correspondence.

THREATENED DANGER FROM ECCLESIASTICAL COURTS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR—It is with some degree of uneasiness that I observe in your last number, under the head of "Norwich Church Rate Case," the danger with which dissenters are threatened, of having a church rate forced upon them, contrary to what they have been in the habit of considering law. It appears, that should the decision be given in favour of the church party, every dissenter voting against a rate, would be in danger of pains and penalties of no very pleasant kind; and that this will be the decision, our knowledge of the *animus* of a church rate party may lead us very seriously to fear. I have been for years expecting some decided effort on the part of the dominant church to deprive us of the redress we have in the vestry; and am satisfied that, unless vigilance of no common kind is exercised by dissenters, they will be deprived of the small amount of liberty now possessed, and will be made to feel the weight of another fetter forged for their consciences.

I am one of the few who, in my humble opinion, carry out the principles of nonconformity to their legitimate end, by suffering my goods to be taken rather than pay to, or in any way countenance, that greatest of all abominations—an established church; and who, on every fitting occasion, would do my best to prevent the making of a rate, that I may not be despoiled of my goods. Hence I cannot regard the present effort without alarm; and my object in this hasty communication, is to draw the attention of the friends of the voluntary principle to the danger by which we are threatened; and I do hope that our metropolitan friends (I will not say leaders) will be on the alert, and do their best to prevent our opponents obtaining the much desired object.

I cannot allow this opportunity to pass by without paying respect to, and sincerely thanking you, sir, for the manly, the unflinching, and talented efforts put forth by you, on the most interesting topics of the day; and to offer a small moiety of encouragement to proceed in your not altogether agreeable task, by assuring you that increased interest is being manifested by all with whom I come in contact, in the efforts you are making for the public good; and as a dissenter, I only regret that our ranks do not exhibit many more such uncompromising advocates of the liberty of the subject in matters of religion. Long since, sir, the death-knell of a state church would have been heard, had our friends been true to their principles. It is, perhaps, not too much to say that two years' determined effort would bring about events which fifty may not accomplish by our present trimming and pusillanimous course. Our great men do not know or feel half the difficulties of the present state of things. The strongest feeling against the "unholy alliance" is to be found amongst the middle class—the men who have no time for doing more than to recognise great principles, and quietly but painfully to support them. I am, sir, yours obediently,

Ipswich, February 2, 1843. J. C.

EXPENSES OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR—In the list of worthies who relieve the Bible society funds of between nine and ten thousand pounds a year, as given by "Justitia" last week, I do not see the name of the Reverend Mr Brown, of some parish in Lincolnshire; and I do not think, from all I have seen or heard of this gentleman, that he is a gratuitous labourer in the Bible cause.

This worthy gentleman was in Scotland about this time last year, and in Glasgow and Stirling gave broad contradiction to the statements which had been made by Dr Thomson. Intimation was sent to the Doctor by a friend, that a meeting was about to be held in Edinburgh, and that he would probably be attacked there; whereupon the Doctor wrote to the deputation to say he should be present, and, if assailed, would demand permission to answer for himself. Early on the morning after his arrival in Edinburgh, the deputation, composed of the above-named Rev. Mr Brown and the Rev. Dr Paterson of Edinburgh, waited on the doctor; and lo! the first thing they said to him was, that though they had found it necessary to controvert his statements in Glasgow and Stirling, the committee in Edinburgh had deemed it inexpedient to introduce the subject at the public meeting there! This gentleman surely deserves good pay, and I think the public would be well pleased to know what he receives for services like those referred to.

FIAT JUSTITIA.

THE RELATIVE CLAIMS OF THE "ANTI-CORN-LAW LEAGUE," AND THE "SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT" CONSIDERED.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR—When, during the latter part of the last summer, I was induced to address you on a subject closely connected, if not identical, with the above, you received and treated my communication with great impartiality, and allowed me access to the public through your columns without any reserve. Though on the present occasion we may not agree so perfectly as we did then; though some of my observations may not fully accord with positions of your own, which you have powerfully and most ably supported, I yet indulge the hope that your impartiality as a public instructor will outweigh all other considerations, and secure for me a renewed appeal at the bar of public opinion.

If in any one particular connected with the subject at the head of this communication, I have yielded to slight modification of sentiment, or have been induced to regard the general position and claims of the above com-

bination in an altered form, since I last troubled your pages, it has not been owing to any personal supineness—for I have been a member in both the recent conventions of the above bodies—but to a calm and dispassionate review of the actions of both, connected with extended inquiries into the amount of public support which they have relatively received.

Since the period referred to, both movements have held aggregate meetings, with results, however, which at present, appear as wide, nearly, as the poles asunder. With the one there has been a temporary failure, with the other, an increased prospect of approaching success. The one has been afflicted by a large secession of its numbers, the other is daily adding thousands to its ranks. In a word, the one has thrown back for a time, or retarded its expected support, while the other has increased that support in all portions of the empire. A brief examination of some of the causes that have produced these different results, may teach us at once our strength and our duty.

At the close of the last London convention of the Anti-corn-law League, it became apparent to no small number of its supporters, that unless some steps were taken, more certain of securing extended popular support than any that had been taken before, the agitation was as good as lost; for the character of the agitation up to that time had so much of a selfish, a manufacturing, or a middle-class appearance, that the agricultural and working classes generally regarded the enterprise as suspicious, or condemned it as one in which their interests had no share. These classes consequently either stood aloof, or opposed the undertaking.

If those who know not the "secrets of state" may be allowed to surmise, it would appear probable that very soon after the close of the London conference, the council became aware of their true position, and the movements at head quarters indicated an enlarged movement, if not an altered plan. To enlist a larger share of public sympathy, and to obtain a larger portion of popular support in favour of their objects, then became their purposed determination. To these they devoted their renewed energies, and though by preferring the road to the public mind which lay through lectures and tracts, to the one that lay through the suffrage, they exposed themselves to the charge of traveling in a round-about way to their object, yet the intention itself can never be derided. The means employed are open to dispute just as far as it can be proved that success is certain only through an extended suffrage; but the legitimacy of the means must be universally conceded, since no question relating to government can be properly adjusted until the public mind has been instructed in order to a correct decision. And certainly on no disputed principle has so much information been spread as on the corn law. The League has visited by its publications and lectures every town, and carried instruction to nearly every dwelling. Their diligence does them honour, and to say the least, their perseverance deserves success.

But while none may question the legitimacy of the means employed, it must be admitted that alone and unaided those means might possibly have fallen far short of the effects which have even now been secured. The public mind is but partially open to rational conviction; and that must be a rare cause, indeed, that succeeds by such means alone. Unhappily for our country, the "League" has not been left to its own unassisted operations; for the cry of thousands, backed by distress hitherto unparalleled, has come to its aid; and urged on by causes which we admit and deplore, the nation's population has followed in the track of the recognised deliverer. City, town, and village have poured forth their voice in support of the common object; and he can know but little of the combined sentiment of the people, who would question the national demand for "total and immediate repeal." As a consequence of the whole, the "League" is the most powerful body at present in existence apart from the state. It is dreaded by the cabinet, hated by the senate, maligned by the interested, and supported by the people. The government trembles at its name, and labours most sedulously at expedients that may but retard its success.

While such is the proud position of the "League," we cannot but regret that any cause whatever should have weakened an enterprise of equal importance, and that the "suffrage" should now be considered otherwise than triumphant. For it cannot be denied that, as an undertaking to effect the thorough emancipation of the people, it can be allowed a place second to none that may claim the public attention. The complete success of the "League" would leave almost untouched the power that has inflicted the injury, and the party that has done the wrong might do it again, though in another shape; but the success of the "suffrage" would at once be complete, and for ever prevent a renewal of the evil; hence the one is a success defective and partial, but the other is both permanent and complete. Why then has the one so progressed, and the other so retrograded? Surely some other cause besides that of public distress has prevailed between the two.

The first duty of a state is, doubtless, to feed the people, since no greater evil can exist in a civilised community than that of physical destitution. If that destitution is caused by monopoly, then the state is bound to destroy that monopoly, or it immediately becomes a party to the legalised murder of its subjects. Not to feed the people is to encourage their miseries, and to encourage their miseries is to hasten their death. But if a state is guilty under such circumstances of so foul a crime, it must be recollected that every public body is bound to render its aid in arresting the evil. To remain neutral in such a question is never becoming, and may possibly incur guilt; but certainly no enterprise can succeed, and it is a question whether it ought to succeed, that regards with other than a heart ready to remove the deep distresses of the people.

That the "suffrage" party were ever indifferent to the calamities of the country, or that they were slow to seek their removal, cannot be suspected for one single moment; but that there was a supposed sympathy between them and a party of the most selfish character may be sufficient to account for the tardy support they have received. For the "chartists" as a body were not simply indifferent, but averse to free trade. Hence, on the part of a large portion of the public, whatever movement was made towards such a body, would be construed into an acquiescence in all the parts of their system, unless an exception had been expressly declared. I very much regret that this exception in favour of trade was not made by the "suffrage" party; for that would have proved that commercial monopoly was with them an evil of less magnitude and abhorrence than political monopoly itself.

The absence of such a declaration has greatly tended to reduce the number of supporters of the "suffrage."
Sir, my limits oblige me to defer a few remaining observations until your next number.
Yours sincerely,
West Bromwich, Feb. 4, 1843. WILLIAM STOKES.

Imperial Parliament.

Parliament was opened on Thursday by commission.

The lords commissioners were the Lord Chancellor, Lord Wharncliffe (lord president of the council), the Duke of Buccleuch (lord privy seal), the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Earl of Shaftesbury.

The opening of the session did not occasion the interest usual on such occasions, in consequence of the absence of her Majesty. There were but a small number of peers in attendance. About 2 o'clock, about 100 members of the House of Commons, headed by the Speaker, appeared at the bar of the house of Lords. The Lord CHANCELLOR then read the following speech :-

"My Lords and Gentlemen,
"We are commanded by her Majesty to acquaint you that her Majesty receives from all princes and states, assurances of a friendly disposition towards this country, and of an earnest desire to co-operate with her Majesty in the maintenance of general peace.

"By the treaty which her Majesty has concluded with the United States of America, and by the adjustment of those differences which, from their long continuance, had endangered the preservation of peace, her Majesty trusts that the amicable relations of the two countries have been confirmed.

"The increased exertions which, by the liberality of parliament, her Majesty was enabled to make for the termination of hostilities with China have been eminently successful.

"The skill, valour, and discipline of the naval and military forces employed upon this service have been most conspicuous, and have led to the conclusion of peace upon the terms proposed by her Majesty.

"Her Majesty rejoices in the prospect, that, by the free access which will be opened to the principal marts of that populous and extensive empire, encouragement will be given to the commercial enterprise of her people.

"As soon as the ratifications of the treaty shall have been exchanged it will be laid before you.

"In concert with her allies, her Majesty has succeeded in obtaining for the Christian population of Syria, the establishment of a system of administration which they were entitled to expect from the engagements of the Sultan and from the good faith of this country.

"The differences for some time existing between the Turkish and Persian governments had recently led to acts of hostility; but, as each of these states has accepted the joint mediation of Great Britain and Russia, her Majesty entertains a confident hope that their mutual relations will be speedily and amicably adjusted.

"Her Majesty has concluded with the Emperor of Russia a treaty of commerce and navigation, which will be laid before you. Her Majesty regards this treaty with great satisfaction, as the foundation for increased intercourse between her Majesty's subjects and those of the Emperor.

"Her Majesty is happy to inform you, that complete success has attended the recent military operations in Afghanistan.

"Her Majesty has the greatest satisfaction in recording her high sense of the ability with which these operations have been directed, and of the constancy and valour which have been manifested by the European and native forces.

"The superiority of her Majesty's arms has been established by decisive victories on the scenes of former disasters; and the complete liberation of her Majesty's subjects who were held in captivity, and for whom her Majesty felt the deepest interest, has been effected.

"We are commanded by her Majesty to inform you that it has not been deemed advisable to continue the occupation, by a military force, of the countries to the westward of the Indus.

"Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

"Her Majesty has directed the estimates for the ensuing year to be laid before you.

"Such reductions have been made in the amount of the naval and military force as have been deemed compatible, under present circumstances, with the efficient performance of the public service throughout the extended empire of her Majesty.

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"Her Majesty regrets the diminished receipt from some of the ordinary sources of revenue.

"Her Majesty fears that it must be in part attributed to the reduced consumption of many articles, caused by that depression of the manufacturing industry of the country which has so long prevailed, and which her Majesty has so deeply lamented.

"In considering, however, the present state of the revenue, her Majesty is assured that you will bear in mind that it has been materially affected by the extensive reductions in the import duties which received your sanction during the last session of parliament, and that little progress has been hitherto made in the collection of those taxes which were imposed for the purpose of supplying the deficiency from that and other causes.

"Her Majesty feels confident that the future produce of the revenue will be sufficient to meet every exigency of the public service.

"Her Majesty commands us to acquaint you, that her Majesty derived the utmost gratification from the loyalty and affectionate attachment to her Majesty, which were manifested on the occasion of her Majesty's visit to Scotland.

"Her Majesty regrets that in the course of last year the public peace, in some of the manufacturing districts, was seriously disturbed, and the lives and property of her Majesty's subjects were endangered by tumultuous assemblages and acts of open violence.

"The ordinary law, promptly enforced, was sufficient for the effectual repression of these disorders. Her Majesty confidently relies upon its efficacy, and upon the zealous support of her loyal and peaceable subjects for the maintenance of tranquillity.

"We are commanded by her Majesty to acquaint you that measures connected with the improvement of the law, and with various questions of domestic policy, will be submitted for your consideration.

"Her Majesty confidently relies on your zealous endeavours to promote the public welfare, and fervently prays that the favour of Divine Providence may direct and prosper your counsels, and make them conducive to the happiness and contentment of her people."

The members of the House of Commons then retired, and after prayers were read, the Lord Chancellor adjourned the House till 5 o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PETITIONS FOR THE WEEK.

Church extension, 2.
Corn laws, for repeal of, 1.
Ecclesiastical courts, against abolition of, 1.
Emigration from Africa, against government scheme of, 1.
Malt, for repeal of duty on, 2.
Mines and Collieries act, for repeal of, 1.
Preston Improvement act, for repeal of, 1.
Property Tax, for repeal of, 2.



MOTIONS.

proposed, "That leave be given to bring in a bill to exclude the borough of Sudbury from sending burgesses to serve in parliament;" amendment proposed, to leave out from the word "That" to the end of the question, in order to add the words, "a select committee be appointed to inquire into the corrupt practices alleged to have prevailed at the last election for the borough of Sudbury, and to report the result of their inquiries to the House;" question, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the question," put and agreed to: main question put and agreed to.

Committees on private bills—Motion made and question put, "That it is expedient that committees on private bills should be approximated, more nearly than they now are, to judicial tribunals, and exempted as much as possible from all motives of local and personal interest: And that the responsibility and efficiency of committees of this House in general would be promoted by diminishing the number of members composing them. (Mr Ewart.) The House divided; ayes 27, noes 84.

DEBATES.

Thursday, February 2.

At a quarter to four o'clock the Speaker took the chair, and, as usual, read the speech from the throne.

New writs were ordered to be issued for the following places:—Cardigan, Carmarthen, Bute; for the university of Dublin, in place of Sergeant Jackson, nominated to be one of her Majesty's Puisne judges in Ireland; for Coleraine, in place of E. Litton, Esq., who has accepted the office of a master in chancery in Ireland; for Bodmin, in the place of the Hon. Major Vivian, called to the upper house by the title of Lord Vivian; for the county of Monaghan, in the place of the Hon. H. R. Westenra, now Lord Rossmore, by the death of his father; for the county of Cavan, in the place of Colonel Clements, deceased.

Colonel RUSHBROOKE moved that a new writ do issue for the borough of Sudbury.

Mr T. DUNCOMBE said there was a general understanding that no new writs should be issued for boroughs in the same position as Sudbury, without notice having been given of the intention to move them. He was surprised that the hon. and gallant gentleman should now, without giving any notice, ask for a new writ for this borough. A bill affecting this borough had been passed through this House, and was still pending before the House of Lords, where there was not sufficient time to pass it during the last session. The bill being, in fact, still under consideration in that house, he hoped the hon. gentleman would not now persist in his motion for the new writ.

Colonel RUSHBROOKE consented to follow the course suggested by the hon. member for Finsbury, and gave notice that he would move for the new writ on this day week.

THE ADDRESS.

Lord COURtenay then rose to move an address embodying the topics of the speech. He declared his peculiar satisfaction at the adjustment of the differences with America, by reason of her common origin, language, and laws, and the influence which must be produced on the whole civilised world by the state of the relations between two countries circumstanced like England and the United States. He congratulated his hearers on the successes in Afghanistan, alluding to the exploits of military valour, and to the no less striking examples of female fortitude, as exhibited in the East. He rejoiced in the fortune which had attended our efforts in China, and hailed in their results a hope of extended markets for our domestic produce; expressing a deep sympathy with his suffering countrymen, but depreciating all partial sacrifices as between the different classes of British industry, and avowing his confidence in the dispositions and abilities of her Majesty's present advisers to relieve the country and promote her welfare.

The motion was seconded by Mr. P. MILES. In advertizing to eastern events, he relied with peculiar gratification upon the pacific policy announced by our Indian government, and upon the commercial prospects opened by our treaty with China. He touched, with praise, upon the arrangements concluded between England and America, expressed his regret for the domestic disturbances of last year, attributing them in great measure to the unprincipled endeavours of those who had excited the indigent; and declared his general approbation of the vigorous measures adopted to restore the credit and finance of the country.

Mr C. WOOD desired to reserve his judgment upon most of the points of the speech until the House should be in possession of further information; but gave his opinion decidedly in favour of the maritime right of visitation which was now claimed by England in her discussions with America, and which he trusted that no British minister would ever be found to have conceded. Generally speaking, he believed the speech would be satisfactory; but he lamented that, on the subject of domestic distress, it held out only sympathy, and no practical relief. In Lancashire and in Scotland, the great seats of our trade, the suffering was almost unabated. The late ministers, to cure these evils, had attempted measures for the extension of trade. A similar disposition had, in the last session, been evinced by the present ministry; but there was no indication of that disposition in the present speech. None of the reductions made last year had cheapened any material article of consumption. Wheat had, indeed, been at a low price, but not, he believed, by reason of the change in the corn laws. Never was any alarm more groundless than that which had last year arisen among the agriculturists. With respect to finance, he apprehended that the state of affairs was worse than it had ever been before. Unless the produce of the income tax should be double the amount at which Mr Goulburn calculated it last year, the deficiency in the current quarter could not be made up.

After a short pause Sir ROBERT PEEL rose. He trusted, from the tone of the House, that the address to be laid before her Majesty would be unanimous. On the subject of the American treaty he should be prepared to show that, if it had not obtained for us

all which we were strictly entitled to expect, it was, on the whole, an eligible adjustment, giving us more than had been awarded by the arbitration of the King of the Netherlands, and securing to us all that was really important in our claims. His own sincere respect for the United States, and his earnest desire to preserve a good understanding with their people, made it painful to him to say that the recent message of the President did not give an accurate representation of what had passed in the negotiations. We had not claimed the right of search, which was a belligerent right! What we had claimed was only the right of visitation—the right to visit a vessel bearing the American flag for the purpose of ascertaining whether she be really American; which if on that visit she should turn out to be, she must be liberated, even though she should clearly appear at all points a slaver. He owned himself surprised that America, surrounded as she was with small states, by every one of which she was in danger of having her flag assumed, should resist a rule the establishment of which would be so much for her own advantage. It was his duty to tell the House of Commons, that not only had Lord Aberdeen's despatch of December, 1841, upon this subject, been maintained in all its principles, but during the fourteen months since elapsed there had not even been so much as an attempt on the part of the American government to answer it. On the subject of finance, he admitted that there was a great deficiency. He had stated last year that, in addition to the deficiency which he had found on coming into office, he proposed to cause a further deficiency still. He had accordingly remitted duties on 700 articles; reductions had all taken effect; but the income tax imposed to meet them had not yet come into productiveness.

The reduction of the duties, it must be remembered, took place at an early period, in most instances as early as July, and in other instances in October, and this of course produced a material effect in increasing the deficiency, whilst the taxes which were imposed to supply the want created had not yet come into sufficient operation. The hon. gentleman ought, therefore, to wait for the next quarter, and yet I do not know that even then there would be sufficient operation to meet the reduction thus created [hear, hear]. The hon. gentleman says, and says truly, that there is a falling off in the excise, and attributes that falling off to the diminished means of the consumer. I admit this falling off, and I am ready candidly and at once to allow that it arises from diminished consumption, but at the same time I must caution hon. gentlemen not to be too apt to draw unfavourable inferences from the fact.

Undoubtedly there had been a great falling off in the excise, mainly on the article of malt; but that had arisen in a great degree from the very unfavourable harvest of 1841. There still, indeed, existed severe distress; but let not the House infer thence that there must needs be a permanent diminution of consumption. Another cause of the late falling off had been the disturbed state of the manufacturing districts. This was not a fit occasion for entering at large upon financial statements; but he did now discern some favourable changes on which he could not forbear from sounding good hopes. It was complained that the speech announced no new measure with respect to corn.

The right hon. gentleman (Mr C. Wood) has asked me what further measures I am prepared to propose? I stated fully and unequivocally last year the general principles which I thought ought to regulate the policy of this kingdom. I stated, too, that I thought we ought to give, as far as possible, free scope to commercial enterprise. To the general principles I then laid down I now adhere; but when I laid them down, I at the same time referred to many complicated considerations which must be borne in mind when principles of that kind were introduced into a country circumstanced like this. I did make, with the aid of my hon. friends and colleagues in office, more extensive changes in the commerce, and in the code which regulates the commerce, of this country than were made at any former period [hear, hear]. If I had contemplated any further immediate and extensive changes, I would at once have proposed them in the course of last year. And why not? I stated last year the general principles on which I should act, and to them, I repeat, I still adhere; but I did not lead the House or the right hon. gentleman to suppose that I would go on year after year introducing extensive changes. I think it would be infinitely better, when a man has made up his mind as to the changes he contemplated, for him to propose them in one year, than to propose a certain number in that year, with a secret reservation as to what he would bring forward in the next [hear, hear]. Whatever changes I do propose will be in conformity, when I do propose them, with the general principles which I have already laid down, and from none of which I recede, and of the truth of which I am perfectly convinced; but, as I said last year, I cannot forget that for this country protection has been the rule; that under it great and extensive interests have grown up; and that, in substituting a better for a defective system, if you proceed too hastily—if in your beneficent efforts to create contentment you produce distress—you run the risk of obstructing the fair and satisfactory progress of right principles. I cannot, therefore, state that I have any great changes to propose in the commercial code of this country. When I do, it will be in conformity with the principles I have laid down; but I should deceive the right hon. gentleman if I led him to suppose there would be any such extensive change as he had hinted at this year.

He believed the reduction which had already taken place in the price of the necessities of life had actually verified his prediction that the income tax would be compensated by the general cheapness of living. As the question had been asked, he thought it right now to avow that her Majesty's government had not in contemplation any amendment of the corn laws.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL, in reference to a notice given before the debate, of a motion of thanks for the services of our officers in India, adverted to some Indian topics upon which he deemed it requisite that further information should be previously furnished—one, the vindictive excesses said to have been committed by our troops; the other, the share of Lord Ellenborough in issuing the directions which led to our successes. There were a couple of proclamations too remarkable to be passed over. One of them contained such a misrepresentation of a preceding governor's policy as was seldom uttered even in the heat of party debate; and it breathed, with respect to Afghanistan itself, a spirit rather of revenge than of calm and statesmanlike policy. The other proclamations was so oddly worded, that many people who had last year been taken in by the clever imitation of a debate in the French chambers, and were therefore much on their guard against a second deception, were thoroughly persuaded this was another hoax. For

his own part, he viewed it more seriously; especially in respect of the tone which it took, a strange tone for a Christian governor, of reverence for the object of idolatrous worship. These things, he owned, had raised in him some misgivings as to the judgment of the individual entrusted with the grave and almost awful responsibility of governing India. With regard to the American treaty, he would say that he did not view it with the satisfaction which some seemed to feel; he doubted whether any treaty would be really advantageous which on its very face was detrimental to the country consenting to it. Coming now to domestic affairs, he would declare that the experience of the past year had confirmed him in his objection to the sliding scale, and in his conviction that a fixed duty was the thing required. Under the present scale, the foreign wheat was poured in just as the home harvest was becoming available; the garden was watered at the moment when it was beginning to rain. He had, however, heard nothing to-night which convinced him that Sir R. Peel would not yet make much further alteration in the corn laws. But on such a question to withhold alterations which were really intended was vastly inconvenient and injurious, and left everything unsettled both for the grower and the labourer. The agricultural members were now placed by the government in a very awkward situation; the arguments on which they were put to defend the tariff were arguments which forced them to condemn the corn laws, and *vice versa*. The noble lord then alluded to the Anti-corn-law League.

There is another view in which the farmers of this country were interested in the settlement of the question; it is while this Anti-corn-law League continue to exist (to the principles of which I do not subscribe) [cheers from the ministerial side], and against the leaders of that League I may take the opportunity some day to defend myself; but, in the mean time, what says one of the leaders of that Anti-corn-law League!—that in 1841 you had a claim to an 8s. duty; that a great proportion of the wealthy and influential subscribers to the League—those who gave to it its vitality and power—would have fallen off, had the proposal for the imposition of that duty been acceded to; that they would have been satisfied with that proposition as a reasonable settlement of the question; and that at this day there would not have been an Anti-corn-law League in existence, but that that powerful and wealthy body would have been dissolved. Would it not, then, be for the interest of the agriculturists—those who have to pay the labourers—if they could say, there is now no such powerful body agitating the country for a total repeal of the duties on corn? That it appears, then, would have been the effect, if the House had chosen to adopt that much reviled and vilified proposition of an 8s. fixed duty [hear, hear]. If that be the case, why does not the right hon. gentleman propose some scheme by which an end should be put to the agitation with respect to this subject, which was now going on in the country?

He was glad to hear that the prospects of the revenue were more favourable than they had been supposed; but he must say that the opinion he had always expressed by his vote and otherwise, against the income tax had been confirmed by the experience of what had recently happened. He then put several cases of hardship and vexation in the collection of the tax, which he contended was often overcharged, in the expectation that the party called upon would pay rather than submit to the annoyance of appealing. He was not quite content with the manner in which the speech had dealt with the subject of last year's disturbances. So much forbearance had been shown by persons who had undergone a long course of suffering, that something more was due to them than the bare announcement of a resolve to act vigorously in repressing disturbance.

Sir C. NAPIER condemned Lord Ashburton's treaty.

Mr WALLACE was sure the speech would be received with dissatisfaction in every quarter of the kingdom.

Lord STANLEY, after bestowing a few words on Mr Wallace, addressed himself to the speech of Lord John Russell, whom he blamed for a premature introduction of the questions connected with Afghanistan. He would, however, now declare, that it was the intention of ministers, on the approaching motion for a vote of thanks, to claim for Lord Ellenborough a share in the honour of our Indian successes. There might be faults to be found with the taste of particular phrases, but when the whole case, with all its facts, should be before the House, the House would judge of it as a whole, and then he should not fear their verdict—nay, he should scarcely fear the verdict of the noble lord himself. He lamented the excesses of the Indian army, or rather by the undisciplined mass by which an Indian army is always followed; and he assured the House that nothing was further from the mind of the Governor-general than to countenance the idolatry of the people under his rule. The noble lord had blamed the Ashburton treaty as though it would have been easy to conclude a more favourable one; but if that was so easy, why had not the late government done so in their ten years of administration! He believed that the territory given up was valueless in an agricultural, and valueless in a military, point of view. If Lord Ashburton apprehended the separation of Canada from England, the boundary question, so far from being of less, must have appeared to him of so much the more importance; for when Canada should become a separate state, deprived of England's auxiliary resources, it would be of vital consequence to her to be protected by available limits from the encroachments of the United States.

Lord PALMERSTON, as it was his intention to bring the Ashburton treaty by specific motion under the notice of the House, would not now follow Lord Stanley into the details of the subject; but considered Lord Ashburton, by reason of his known opinions and connexions, to have been ill selected as a negotiator upon such a subject. The course taken by that noble person appeared to indicate either great incapacity in the government, or great indifference in the negotiator. On the results of the Chinese war, Lord Palmerston expressed himself glad to concur in the congratulations of the speech. As he and

his friends had been responsible for beginning that war, they could not but rejoice in its successful conclusion; and it was but fair to admit that the present ministers had conducted it with as much earnestness and vigour as if they had themselves commenced it. As to India, he wished to know whether the thanks proposed were to include Lord Ellenborough; for he was satisfied that Lord Ellenborough had not been the author of the instructions by which the success had been directed; and as to his proclamations, they had really become a laughing-stock. Instead of thanking such a governor, the cabinet should have recalled him. He concluded by asking whether the number of cruizers on the coast of Africa was about to be reduced, and whether any change had been made in their instructions?

Sir R. PEEL answered both questions substantially in the negative; and took the opportunity of expressing his regret that the attack on Lord Ellenborough had not been made earlier in the debate. He had waited before he rose to see whether any other member was about to speak; having then addressed the House, he was precluded from going into the question now; and it was that rule of the House which alone withheld him from entering into the vindication of his noble friend.

Sir ROBERT INGLIS would not condemn the general policy of Lord Ellenborough, but he must express his deep disapprobation of that passage in one of the proclamations in which a Christian governor, on a subject connected with religion, employed language such as no Mahomedan ruler would have suffered himself to use. It was not, as Lord Stanley had put it, a matter of taste; the government ought not to take that sort of ground, they ought to discontinue such an officer.

Mr VILLIERS complained that the speech disregarded the sufferings of the people at home. It would not do to say there were no remedies. Remedies there were, and which the people expected and desired. They would not be satisfied with what had passed this evening. Sir R. Peel had uttered nothing which looked like an intention to repeal the corn laws, and the people were now, therefore, in a hopeless state. Their excitement was general.

The noble lord (Lord Stanley) asked what would satisfy the League, and seemed to think it an excuse for not dealing with the law that they could not be satisfied. He would tell them that he believed that nothing would satisfy them but an entire repeal of the law [a laugh], and it was his deliberate belief that that opinion was gaining ground every hour, and that ultimately, if not speedily, they would succeed [hear, hear, and a laugh]. Gentlemen might laugh, they had a right to their opinions, and so had he to his. They seemed to think that the people were not suffering, and ought not to be relieved; he thought their sufferings were great, and that they would soon insist on the remedy [hear, hear]. There were signs in every village, town, and hamlet in the country, of the progress it was making [a laugh from Mr Ferrand]. That gentleman might laugh; he had better bring proof to the contrary if he could [hear, hear].

Lord HOWICK thought it the duty of the House, passing by all minor topics, to apply itself to the subject of the national distress. The very length of its continuance proved that there must be some cause for it in the organisation of society. It had been said that the opposition were acting unfairly in making charges against the Governor of India before the day fixed for the discussion of his conduct. On the contrary, the unfairness would have been in keeping back charges until that day. He thought much explanation would be requisite, both on the subject of the idolatrous worship, and on that of the military excesses, before the House could properly concur in any vote of thanks.

Mr HUME had disapproved the selection of Lord Ashburton; but had changed his opinion when he saw how much temper and judgment that noble lord had evinced in the conduct of the treaty. Mr Hume was also satisfied with the results accomplished in China and Afghanistan. He complained of the present weight of taxation, observing that the low rate of profits and wages made it more difficult to pay a small impost now, than it had been to pay a much larger one in other days. He then passed on to free trade, corn laws, and tariffs, and called on Sir Robert Peel to carry out his own principles. If his friends would not let him do so, it was his duty to resign. The great evil of the present day was low prices; let the ports be opened, and prices would rise.

Mr FERRAND said no good would come till machinery was taxed. The opposition might cheer, and call upon the right hon. baronet to carry out their principles; he had been seduced by their smiles last year; and how had his measures answered? Mr Ferrand then challenged any of the members of the Anti-corn-law League to meet him and argue their question openly in any town of Lancashire or Yorkshire. The prices of meat, flour, and potatoes had been greatly reduced in consequence of Sir R. Peel's measure; but what the operatives wanted was a higher rate of wages from their masters. The masters lived in every luxury, but they did nothing for the suffering operatives. What had the League given to the distressed poor? Not one of them had subscribed a single sixpence to the Queen's letter; nay, they appeared to rejoice in the continuance of the distress. Their popularity was so little, that they were obliged to admit their audiences with tickets.

Mr EWART censured the sweeping generality of Mr Ferrand's imputations, and asked if he meant to include all manufacturers? (Mr Ferrand intimated that he did not.) Mr Ewart then went on to argue in favour of free trade in general, and recommended in particular the reduction of the duties on tea and sugar, the opening of the trade with Ceylon, and above all the alteration of the corn laws.

Mr MILNER GIBSON said that the reason why the League audiences were admitted by tickets was, that paid parties had been sent in to disturb their conferences. If the members of the League had not

subscribed to the Queen's letter, they had assisted poverty and distress in their own localities. Many wise and good men believed that they were doing more good by subscriptions to the League than by giving their money to temporary charities. If at present any change were in progress, it was rather in the way of decline than of improvement. He condemned Sir Robert Peel for still holding out to the occupying tenantry the notion that without a repeal of the present duties it would be possible for them much longer to employ their capital safely in the cultivation of corn land.

Mr BROTHERTON, Mr G. BANKS, Mr Sergeant MURPHY (in defence of certain speeches delivered by Mr O'Connell who was then absent), Dr BOWRING, Mr M. PHILIPS, and Captain PECHELL, briefly addressed the House; after which the motion was unanimously agreed to, and a committee appointed to draw up the address.

Friday, February 3.

THE ADDRESS.

Lord COURTENAY brought up the report of the committee of the House of Commons on the address, which was read a first time; and upon the motion, that it be read a second time, Mr WALTER said, he feared that one part of what he had to say would be unsatisfactory to those who sat near him, and the other part to those who sat opposite to him. After expressing his approbation of those topics of the address which refer to our foreign relations, and commanding the government for the manner in which the late disturbances had been suppressed, he adverted to the corn law, and declared his opinion to be still, as it always had been, in favour of a fixed duty as against a sliding scale. The greatest merit of the present law was that it approached to the fixed duty. He hoped the country might look for some further change in the next session. The present law had this disadvantage—that instead of placing corn in the same category with other articles of importation, as a fixed duty would do, it furnished, by its variable nature, a handle to the allegation that parliament was legislating for a class. His experience as the representative of an agricultural county, and his experience as the representative of a great manufacturing town, led him alike to the result he now maintained. With respect to the question between the labourers and their employers, he differed alike from the rural advocates of the workhouse, and from the dissenting ministers of Manchester, who, with hearts bleeding for the operatives, upheld the same system. He had a great objection to all leagues, whether of manufacturers or of agriculturists. But he equally deprecated leagues of a secret character, such as he conceived to be that which combined to carry out the new poor law, and of whose real though concealed motives he would now give the House an unequivocal proof. Reverting to the corn question, he cited arguments of Mr Huskisson and other eminent statesmen as authorities in support of his own views. This country, he added, should take warning from what had happened in France some years ago. That nation was then anxious to obtain a navy, and was in progress toward her object by means of a maritime intercourse with the corn-growing countries; when her landed aristocracy, fearing a reduction in the prices of agricultural produce, persuaded the government to stop the importation of corn. Thousands of seamen were at once thrown out of employ, the hope of a navy cut off, and the best interests of the nation sacrificed to the exaggerated fears of a few.

Mr WARD thanked Mr Walter for the declaration which he had just made on the subject of the corn laws, and which, coming from that hon. member, was of great importance to the country. The existing corn law could not stand; the agriculturists were becoming sensible to the necessity of changing it; and in the manufacturing districts the feeling against it was daily increasing. He had expected that Sir R. Peel would have advanced in the line for which he had last session declared his preference, and not have taken his stand upon the imperfect changes he had already made; but it should seem that the ministers were controlled by those who sat behind them. Undoubtedly there was this difficulty in a fixed duty—that an addition of 5s. on each of the two millions of quarters imported did in effect impose a tax of 5s. on every quarter raised at home; but still that matter might be made a subject of compromise; the law, surely, could not remain where it now was. No farmer, in the present uncertainty of the subject, could safely take a lease. He did not like the present position of Sir R. Peel, surrounded by broad theories, but withheld from the practical application of them. The little which had as yet been done would by no means suffice for the reputation of the right hon. gentleman.

Mr LIDDELL protested against the appeal to Mr Huskisson's opinions as authority against that sliding scale of which Mr Huskisson himself was the author. The alleged uncertainty in the state of the law had not been found in practice to deter farmers from taking leases, nor would their position be made at all more secure by the imposition of a fixed duty, whereof no man could estimate the duration at one single half-year. He rejoiced at the declaration made on the previous night by Sir R. Peel against further changes on this subject; and he was sure that any intimation from the right hon. baronet of an intent to make more alterations would have produced vastly more alarm than was likely to arise from any now existing cause. He deplored the prevailing distress, but hoped there were symptoms of its diminution.

Mr VILLIERS then asked whether Sir R. Peel had meant, in his speech of the preceding night, to declare himself against all change in the corn laws?

Sir R. PEEL said, that though in general he

thought it an objectionable practice to answer questions respecting the future policy of government, yet, on a subject of so much importance as this, he would not decline to state, that he did not contemplate any change in the general tenor of the existing corn law. He did not agree that it had failed; nor had there been sufficient experience of its operation to justify the inferences of its opponents. When he heard Mr Ward's observation about the effect of a fixed duty, he was at a loss to conceive how such a duty could be consented to by that hon. member; who had admitted that for £500,000 sterling acquired to the revenue from the two millions of quarters which might be usually imported, the country would pay a tax of five millions sterling on the twenty millions of quarters grown at home. He would resist any alteration in the existing law; he saw no other system which he thought likely to work so well; nor had he ever heard of any proposal which would give absolute security to the agriculturists against all change; except, indeed, a total abolition of duty, which, to be sure, would protect them against further reduction, because it would leave nothing to be reduced. That was all he felt it necessary at present to state with respect to the corn laws. He never intended to bind himself to adhere irrevocably to any particular law [cheers from the opposition]. Never would he agree to purchase any degree of support by an engagement to take his stand, not on a principle, but on some existing law, in which it was impossible for any man to say that the interests of the country would not make it necessary to introduce alterations from time to time [cheers].

SCOTTISH POOR LAW.

Mr E. ELICE moved for a copy of the instructions issued to the commission appointed to inquire into the Scotch poor law system. He expressed his own disbelief in the utility of such a commission. Four of the seven members composing it were of the class of landlords—a class opposed to all improvement on this subject.

Sir R. PEEL was surprised at the objection of the hon. gentleman, whose own friends had been ten years in office without taking any step in the matter. Nor did he blame them for that omission; for he himself had felt the great difficulty of the subject, to which, when attending her Majesty in Scotland, he had devoted much attention. He must vindicate the landed gentlemen of that kingdom from the attack of their own countryman. He believed that they would most usefully assist the object of benefiting the poor of Scotland; and he was quite sure the subject was one on which it was quite necessary to possess such preliminary information as this commission was intended to furnish. He believed the hon. gentleman would not find reason to blame the instructions, when produced.

Mr FOX MAULE wished to see added to the commission some gentlemen connected with one of the larger towns.

SIR JAMES GRAHAM said he had been unwilling at all to disturb the ancient law of Scotland, but he had felt that it had been established in other times, and for another state of society. When at length he had reluctantly resolved on a change, he had thought it right to exercise great caution. He had placed upon the commission men of opposite politics, in order that the confidence of no party might be withheld; but he had not thought it necessary to provide for an exact balance of political opinions. He suggested that the form of the motion should be for a copy of the warrant on which the commission was issued, as the instructions were contained in that warrant.

Lord J. RUSSELL did not feel that the late government had been to blame for not originating a measure on this subject. The cases of distress which arose in the interim were not unattended to. He admitted that Lord Melville's name was a guarantee for the fair conduct of the commission; but he could hardly hope that any very general change in such a matter as the relief of the poor would afford a general satisfaction. In the rural districts, he feared that any change was likely to be for the worse.

Mr HUME would have a couple of members added to the commission, to take care of town interests, and a clergyman of the secession church, to preclude any notion that the establishment was to have every thing its own way.

Mr C. BRUCE and Mr MACKENZIE gave some explanations connected with the committee which sat, several years ago, on the subject of distress in the Western Highlands.

Mr HUME and Mr EWART again urged the addition of some commissioners connected with the town interests.

Sir J. GRAHAM was persuaded that all interests would be fully and fairly considered by the committee as already constituted.

Mr E. ELICE, in his reply, repeated his objection to the proportion of landed proprietors on the commission.

The motion was then agreed to, as were also two motions made by Mr Hume; one for a return of those imports on which there had been a falling off in the produce of the duties; the other, for a return of silver imported from China.

MISCELLANEOUS.

In the house of Commons on Thursday night, Sir T. FREEMANTLE gave notice, on behalf of the Judge Advocate, that he would, on Thursday, the 9th of Feb., move for leave to bring in a bill relative to the administration of ecclesiastical justice in England and Wales.

Sir T. FREEMANTLE gave notice, on behalf of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that he would, on the 13th Feb., move for leave to bring in a bill relative to frauds on exchequer bills.

Sir T. FREEMANTLE gave notice, on behalf of the noble lord, the Secretary for the Colonies, that he would, on the 14th of Feb., move a vote of thanks to the officers and men engaged in the Chinese war.

Sir T. FREEMANTLE gave notice, on behalf of the right hon. bart, the First Lord of the Treasury, that he would, on the 16th of Feb., move a vote of thanks to the Governor-general of India, and to the officers and men employed in the military operations to the west of the Indus.

Mr WALLACE gave notice that he would, on the 7th of February, move for a select committee to inquire into the state of the late distress in Paisley; also for a return of the money, collected under the Queen's letter, and the mode in which it was disposed.

Mr WALLACE gave notice that he would, on the 14th of Feb., call the attention of the House to the general distress of the country.

Mr MACKINNON gave notice that he would, on the 14th of February, bring in a bill for the improvement of towns.

Sir VALENTINE BLAKE gave notice that he would, on the 16th of Feb., move for leave to bring in a bill to abolish the administering of oaths. The hon. gentleman also gave notice that he would call the attention of the House to the mode in which the business of parliament was conducted, and would move to have it transacted in a manner more consistent with the convenience of members than the present mode of conducting it.

Lord ASHLEY gave notice that he would, on the 16th of Feb., move that an address be presented to her Majesty, praying that she would be graciously pleased to take into her serious consideration the best means of diffusing a moral and religious education amongst the working classes.

Mr T. DUNCOMBE gave notice that that he would, on Thursday, move for a select committee to inquire into the administration of justice by magistrates during the late disturbances in the manufacturing districts.

The hon. member also gave notice that he would, on the same day, move for an inquiry into the mode in which Lord Abinger discharged his duties as a judge during the special commission.

Mr ROEBUCK gave notice that he would, on the 16th of Feb., move for a committee to inquire into the policy which led to the war in Afghanistan.

Mr EWART gave notice that he would, on the 16th of Feb., move for an address to the Crown respecting education.

Mr LABOUCHERE gave notice that he should on Thursday, the 9th Feb., move for a return of the wheat imported into Canada, and from thence re-imported into this country, for a certain period.

The treaty with Russia was presented to the House of Commons.

In the house of Lords, Earl STANHOPE, instead of moving an amendment on the address, gave notice of a substantive motion, for Thursday next, "That this House do resolve itself into a committee of the whole House, for the purpose of taking into its most serious consideration the present condition of the productive classes of the United Kingdom, with a view to providing for their profitable employment and to the improvement of their condition."

The Duke of WELLINGTON gave notice, that on the 14th, he should move the thanks of the House of Lords to the naval and military officers and men engaged in China; and on the 16th, thanks to the officers and troops engaged in the operations in the East Indies, including in that motion the Governor-general.

On Friday night, Mr G. PALMER gave notice, that on Thursday, the 9th of February, he should move for the appointment of a committee to inquire into the shipwrecks of British vessels, and the means of preserving the lives and property of the persons shipwrecked.

Mr SHARMAN CRAWFORD gave notice that, on an early day in the month of March, he should move for leave to bring in a bill for the better protection of occupying tenants-at-will, and of persons holding by determinate leases in Ireland.

Mr VILLIERS gave notice that, on an early day, he should submit a motion to the House on the subject of the corn laws, with a view to their total repeal.

Lord HOWICK gave notice that, on Monday, the 13th inst, he should move, "That this House do resolve itself into a committee of the whole House to consider so much of her Majesty's speech as refers to 'that depression of the manufacturing industry of the country which has so long prevailed, and which her Majesty has so deeply lamented.'"

Poor Laws, IRELAND.—Mr H. GRATTOX inquired of the Secretary for Ireland, whether it was the intention of government to introduce any measure this session, whereby the mode of assessment of poor rates in Ireland would be changed. Lord ELLIOT said it was not the intention of the government to propose any alteration in the fundamental provisions of the poor law. However, with respect to some of its minor provisions, inquiries were now being made as to the necessary changes; and when her Majesty's government were in possession of the requisite information they should be prepared to state what alterations they would make.

On Monday night, in reply to a question put by Lord PALMERSTON, Sir R. PEEL said, that the Brazilian government had consented that the treaty with that country should remain in force until November, 1844. He hoped the negotiations for a new commercial treaty would prove successful.

In answer to various other inquiries, Sir R. PEEL "hoped and believed" that the negotiations for a commercial treaty with Portugal would be speedily brought to a close, and declared there were grounds for believing that the same satisfactory result would attend our negotiations with France, but that

Hanover resisted our propositions respecting the Stade duties, negotiations being still pending.

Sir J. GRAHAM said, it was his intention, as early as he could, to introduce a bill for the amendment of the English poor law; but he could not promise to do so within a fortnight. Mr WALTER then gave notice of a motion on the subject for the 20th inst.

The Queen's answer to the address was brought up.

THE DISFRANCHISEMENT OF SUDSBURY.—The question of the Sudsbury writ raised a brief discussion. Colonel Rushbrooke withdrew his motion for the issue of the writ; and Mr Tuffnell obtained an order that no writ issue before the 20th of March. He then moved for leave to bring in a disfranchising bill, which was met by an amendment by Mr Blackstone, that there be a further inquiry by a select committee. But Sir Robert Peel intimated his opinion that nothing had occurred to cause the House to reverse its decision of last session, or to go into a new inquiry, and Mr Blackstone's amendment was negatived without a division; Mr Tuffnell's motion being agreed to.

Mr EWART moved certain resolutions respecting private bills, the object of which was to limit the number of members on each such committee to seven, and to provide against the appointment of members interested in the subjects referred to the committee, or wanting leisure to attend them. They were opposed by Sir GEORGE CLERK, and, after some discussion, were rejected on a division, by 84 to 27.

The House adjourned at a quarter to seven.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, Feb. 2.

The Earl of Powis moved, and Lord ECLINTON seconded, the address to the House upon the subject of her Majesty's speech. The addresses of their lordships were little more than a running commentary upon the topics adverted to in the royal speech, bestowing, however, a more emphatic congratulation upon the subject of the Washington treaty, the negotiations with the Porte for the maintenance of the privileges of the Christians in Syria, and the conclusion of a great and important commercial treaty with Russia, from which considerable advantages might reasonably be expected to accrue to both countries.

The Marquis of LANSDOWNE expressed his approbation of the judicious manner in which the royal speech had been framed, with the view of preventing the expression of any difference of opinion as to the terms of the address, yet hoped this general approbation would not be construed into a concurrence in all the points adverted to, or passed over, in the speech from the throne. With regard to the corn laws especially, no mention of which had been made in that speech, he believed that no period had ever occurred in which greater embarrassment had been occasioned to the trade and internal resources of the country than since the present corn laws had come into operation. He regarded the conclusion of the treaty of Washington with satisfaction, not unmixed with regret that the granting of such large concessions had not been made the means of arranging other important matters of settlement with the United States, which still remained prolific causes of misunderstanding, and referred especially to the question of the Oregon boundary and the right of search.

In adverting to our eastern successes, he took occasion to notice the prevailing impression that some unwillingness had been manifested on the part of Lord Ellenborough to re-enter Afghanistan, and to the proclamations in which the Governor-general had imitated the schahs and sultans to whom the country he now ruled over had formerly been subject. He complained of the paragraph in the royal speech by which the successful issue of the China war was attributed to the "liberality of parliament," and contended that the increased means of conducting the war had been suggested by Lord Auckland, for whom also he claimed the honour of having pointed out the very plan of operations by which the expedition had at length succeeded. He implored the attention of ministers and of the country to the means of securing and improving the trade with China, now for the first time laid open to the civilised world; and after speaking in feeling terms of the patience with which the great mass of those who had suffered severe distress had borne their privations, concluded by declining to offer any opposition to the address.

The Duke of WELLINGTON, in reply, vindicated the justice of the Chinese war, and contrasting the force which had been employed by the late and by the present government, claimed for the latter all the credit of having at last conducted it to a successful termination. He complained that, after the forbearance in the royal speech of any allusion to our disasters in Afghanistan, the noble marquis should have intruded such a topic upon that night's discussion; and, after referring to his own experience in India, and of military difficulties, declared that he was ready "to justify every order or movement, either one way or the other, the Governor-general had given since he took upon him the administration of the affairs of India." With respect to the treaty of Washington, which had been also prematurely brought before their lordships, he expressed his general approval of Lord Ashburton's conduct, but wished that all further discussion might be suspended until the papers were regularly before the House.

Lord BROUGHAM, too, heartily concurred in the sentiment of universal exultation at the settlement of the differences of America, in comparison with the importance of which he was utterly indifferent to the sacrifice of a few miles of territory, or even of the navigation of the St John's river. "Welcome," said the noble lord. "Take it all! Give it up." He then proceeded more in detail to defend the concessions which Lord Ashburton had made for the sake of peace, and contrasted most eloquently the blessings

ings of such a policy with the horrors which our invasion of Afghanistan had entailed, not only upon the inhabitants of that country, but upon our unfortunate troops. Retaliation had been exacted for these horrors by devastation and excesses which he stigmatised as ruthless and superfluous—without object, except to gratify a fierce, brutal, and unchristian spirit of vengeance—and without result, except as working out a self-destructive policy, which left on the minds of the Afghans an unquenchable abhorrence of the British name and character. The noble lord then proceeded to review our relations with foreign powers—touched upon the right of search question, with reference to our continental neighbours—vindicated the French government and its consul, M. Lesseps, from any concern in, or connivance with, the revolt of Barcelona; and, after enlarging upon the inestimable benefits of peace with France, and the evils which would flow from any interruption of our present amicable relations, concluded with a warm panegyric upon its government and its people; expressing his conviction that temperate conciliation, fair dealing, and open manly conduct, were alone necessary to preserve good feeling, and congratulating himself on the consciousness that in this respect his speech would not be without its use.

Lord AUCKLAND shared with Lord Brougham the horror with which all war was to be contemplated, and had only entered upon that in Afghanistan, because, after long and painful hesitation, he felt convinced that it was essential to the very safety of England. He had at last determined to meet the threatening danger in advance, and the result was to dispel a cause of apprehension then imminent, and now no longer formidable because thus decisively met. He referred without asperity to the late orders issued by Lord Ellenborough, but would decline to follow his example in bandying with him terms of depreciation and disparagement. He had laboured most earnestly during the last weeks of his administration to lessen the difficulties his successor would have to encounter, and his ill success was owing rather to the force of circumstances than to any omission or mismanagement on his part. He defended the part he had taken in the direction of the several expeditions on the coast of China; and, without detracting from the vigour and ability with which the plans by which success was ultimately attained were carried out, he firmly believed that the same plans, and nearly the same amount of force, would have been employed had there been no change of government at all.

A further discussion took place between Lord CHESTER, Lord MINTO, and Lord HADDINGTON, on the Afghan war; after which Lord STANHOPE gave notice of a motion for Thursday next, embodying an amendment which he had intended to have proposed on the address.

The address was then agreed to, and their lordships shortly afterwards adjourned.

On Monday night the House of Lords sat only for three quarters of an hour. The answer of her Majesty to the address was brought up. No business of importance was transacted, the time being chiefly occupied in conversations respecting the Irish poor law, and the law of debtor and creditor.

On Saturday Mr George Dawson had an audience of the Queen. Mr Dawson was the bearer of the address from the Commons in reply to her Majesty's speech at the opening of parliament on Thursday. The Earl of Liverpool, the lord steward, laid before her Majesty, on Friday, the address to the Queen from the Lords.

Mr Stephenson, junior secretary to the Premier, will succeed Mr Drummond as chief private secretary; and Mr Arbuthnot of the treasury will supply the place of Mr Stephenson.

An unpleasant rumour is abroad, says the *Dublin Monitor*, that the minister intends to supply the deficiences of the revenue by imposing assessed taxes upon Ireland.

It is intended, in the course of a few weeks, to make a collection in every church and parochial chapel within the diocese of London, in aid of the fund for building and endowing additional churches in the metropolis and its suburbs.

We understand that the trials of Feargus O'Connor and the other chartists, upon the indictments against them, which were removed by *certiorari* from the late special commission, will be tried at Lancaster, and not at Liverpool. Hence it has been thought right to assign a longer period for the assizes at Lancaster than would otherwise have been necessary.—*Liverpool Times*.

TROOPS FOR THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—An order from the horse guards has reached Dublin notifying to the 45th regiment, at present in Cork, and the 7th dragoon guards, stationed in Caher and Limerick, to hold themselves in readiness to proceed "immediately" to the Cape of Good Hope. The 45th will embark eleven hundred bayonets. The dragoons go out dismounted, the horses to be supplied on their arrival at the Cape. The 7th were last on service in the year 1763.

FORGED EXCHEQUER BILLS.—This subject is again, and soon, to be brought before parliament; indeed the question could not well be allowed to remain in its present state. As a preliminary step, the Chancellor of the Exchequer will on Monday, the 13th inst., submit a motion to the House of Commons "relative to the forged exchequer bills."

THE NORTH EASTERN BOUNDARY QUESTION.—A startling circumstance has, within the last few days, been made public, in a pamphlet published by Mr Featherstoaugh, respecting the now settled question.

Mr Jared Sparks, who has been for some time engaged collecting materials for a history of the United States, found in the French foreign office an original map, presented by Dr Franklin to Count de Vergennes, then minister of Louis XVI., which was enclosed in this letter:

"*Passy, December 6, 1782.*

"SIR—I have the honour of returning herewith the map your Excellency sent me yesterday. I have marked with a strong red line, according to your desire, the limits of the United States, as settled in the preliminaries between the British and American plenipotentiaries. With great respect, I am, &c."

"**B. FRANKLIN.**"

In communicating this map and letter to Mr Webster, Mr Sparks observes:—"Imagine my surprise on discovering that this line runs wholly south of the St John and between the head waters of that river and those of the Penobscot and Kennebec. In short, it is exactly the line now contended for by Great Britain, except that it concedes more than is claimed." This map, it appears, Mr Webster had in his possession during the whole of his negotiations with Lord Ashburton, when he so strongly insisted on the justice of the American claims. The somewhat refractory opposition of the Senate in ratifying the treaty was only overcome by the production of this map, which quickly silenced all their scruples.

Since the new tariff has come into operation nearly 1000 bullocks have been landed at the port of Southampton from France and Spain. It is expected that, before the spring has passed, the number will be doubled, as arrangements have been made for larger importations than have hitherto taken place.

The eruptions of Etna have diminished, and the period of their termination seems fast approaching. The foreigners assembled about Catania are beginning to disperse.

The *Limerick Chronicle* says, "The several poor law unions in Ireland are indebted to the National Bank £70,000."

Sums of prize money have been ordered to be distributed in proportions to the crews of the Wolverine, Fantome, and Water Witch, for the capture of several slave vessels.

It is stated in the circular of Messrs. Truman and Co., of London, that dandelion roots, to the amount of 2000 tons annually, are now used as a substitute for chicory, in the adulteration of coffee.

The Marquis of Northampton, as president of the Royal society, gives his *soirees* to the learned fellows of that distinguished society on Saturday, the 25th inst., March 11th and 25th, and April 8th, at his mansion in Piccadilly.

—A statement has been published of the voyages performed by the West India mail steam-ships during the year 1842, which affords a singular proof of the regularity with which Transatlantic communication is effected by means of steam navigation. The average length of the West India voyage, both out and home, appears to be 181 days; the longest outward passage was made in 20 days 17 hours, and the quickest in 16 days 19 hours; the distance run over being little short of 4000 miles.

Sir Moses Montefiore has established a Jewish dispensary in Jerusalem, at his own private cost, for three years, before the expiration of which term it is expected that a complete hospital will be in successful operation.

Postscript.

Wednesday, February 8th, 1843.

The House of Lords met for a short time last night, but the only matter that engaged their attention was Lord Brougham's explanation of his observations on the right of search question.

In the House of Commons Sir R. Peel inquired whether Lord Howick's motion for the 13th inst., on the state of the revenue, and Mr Wallace's on the distress of the country, for the 14th inst., would both be persevered in. Lord John Russell said he could only answer for his noble friend that he would bring forward his motion on the 13th inst. Mr Wallace said his notice of motion was given previous to that given by the noble member for Sunderland. The noble lord had given his notice for an order day. By what good fortune the noble lord expected to bring it on he did not know; but if the noble lord should not succeed in bringing on his motion, he (Mr Wallace) would certainly bring forward his on Tuesday.

CHURCH RATES.—Sir R. Peel, in reply to Mr Duncombe, said he had no present intention of bringing in a measure on the subject of church rates, but in so saying he did not preclude himself hereafter from legislating on it.

DISTRESS IN PAISLEY.—Mr Wallace brought forward a motion for a select committee to inquire into the treatment of the unemployed and destitute people of Paisley (independent of the parochial poor) between the month of May, 1841, and the present time. Sir James Graham complimented Mr Wallace for his moderate and becoming language in bringing forward a subject so distressing in its nature. On the part of the government, he acceded to the motion, leaving it to Mr Wallace to constitute his committee fairly. Mr Wallace pledged himself to do so; and the appointment of the committee was ordered.

MEDICAL CHARITIES (IRELAND).—Mr F. French desired leave to introduce a bill for extending and regulating medical charities in Ireland. He entered at great length into the details of many evils appearing to require some remedy, and proposed to control those evils by unpaid commissioners, to be chiefly members of the medical profession. Lord Elliot said, it was much easier to discern the evil than to

discover the remedy. He had himself, on the part of the Irish government, caused a measure to be prepared, which he hoped would bring some redress; but he had met with too much opposition from medical and other gentlemen connected with the subject to proceed with that measure. He would not oppose the present motion; but he did not think that medical men in any considerable practice would give their time as unpaid commissioners. Leave was then given to introduce the bill.

POLITICAL OFFENDERS IN CANADA.—Mr Roebuck then moved an address to the Crown, praying for the pardon of all political offenders transported from either of the Canadas to our penal colonies. They had been transported by the sentence of an extraordinary tribunal, constituted in consequence of the second outbreak in Canada; and thus an intercession in their behalf would not be open to the objection of being an interference with the regular administration of the law. Their impression, right or wrong, had been, that the government were resolved to swamp, or, as it was called, to Anglicise the population of Lower Canada, by abrogating their language, their institutions, and their very religion. The recent change of policy had caused great rejoicing, which, however, had been quite unmixed with any insulting triumph over the opposite party. The restoration of those for whom he now pleaded could be productive of no danger. They were few with reference to the entire population, though numerous as regarded their own immediate connexions. The old severity ought not to be kept up against the poor and ignorant followers of the party, now that its leaders had been admitted into the councils of their sovereign. What he now asked was, that the keystone should be added to the arch. Mr Ewart seconded the motion, taking this opportunity to express his approbation of Sir Charles Bagot's policy. Lord Stanley, though he felt it painful to interpose against any exercise of the prerogative of mercy, was obliged to resist the present motion. Under any circumstances it was constitutionally inexpedient that the House of Commons should interfere with that prerogative; but in this case there were also special reasons against such an interference. In the tranquil and contented state in which the Canadian population were now admitted to be it was peculiarly undesirable to revive the subjects of past dissension. The recent policy and appointments of Sir C. Bagot, which had discarded all distinctions of origin, had been in full unison with the views of the government at home. Whatever difficulty had existed under the separate constitutions of the Canadas was removed by their union. There was now an end of the danger lest the English Canadians should be overwhelmed by the French race. It would be an injustice to the French Canadians to suppose that they considered the termination of past discords as involving impunity to such a crime as treason. If those who had committed that high offence were now at once to obtain a full amnesty for their acts, the loyal, who had bravely made so many sacrifices, would have reason to complain of a government which should thus confound its faithful subjects with the disturbers of the public peace. Directions had long since been given to Sir C. Bagot to consider, with clemency, those cases in which there might be circumstances of alleviation; but the government could not consent to this indiscriminate restoration—they could not consent to connect the boon lately bestowed on the respectable classes of the French Canadians with a sweeping re-introduction into the colony of the seditious, the disaffected, and the disorderly. Mr Hume, seeing that Lord Stanley had made so important an intimation, would not recommend Mr Roebuck to press his motion to a division. Mr C. Buller regretted this motion, as one by no means calculated to advance the objects most desirable for Canada. Mr Roebuck, considering that his object had been attained, withdrew his motion.

Mr Manners Sutton obtained leave to bring in a bill affecting transported convicts, with respect to pardons and tickets of leave.

The house went into a committee of supply *pro forma*. The adjournment took place at ten minutes to eight o'clock.

TREATY WITH RUSSIA.—The *Times* of this morning publishes the treaty of navigation and commerce recently concluded between this country and Russia. The general purport of the articles (which are sixteen in number) is to secure for the vessels of both nations reciprocal privileges and immunities. Thus, the ships of Great Britain on entering or departing from any Russian port will not be subjected to higher duties than those imposed on Russian ships; whilst, in return, the latter, on entering our ports will be treated as if they were British; also, British and Russian vessels arriving from other countries than those of the contracting parties are to be admitted on payment of the same duties as would be required of them by their respective nations. And, generally, the vessels and subjects of the two nations are to enjoy all the privileges in either country to which they would be entitled in their own. There is no mention of any concession of duties on foreign commerce on either side.

According to the *Times* the differences between France and Spain respecting the affair of M. Sesups, are likely to be amicably adjusted.

CORN MARKET. MARK LANE, THIS DAY.

The market is firm to-day, and some sales have been made at Monday's prices. The supply is 3450 quarters of English; and 2100 of foreign.

THE NONCONFORMIST.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Christianus" declined for want of room.
The article on "Capital Punishment" reluctantly, and with many thanks, declined for the same reason.

If the writer of a review on Dr Marshall's work will call upon us, we may be able to suggest to him such alterations in it as would render it suitable for our columns.

"An Anxious Enquirer" next week.

"Querist." The legal questions we are unable to answer; the others we may touch upon as opportunity presents.

We are obliged this week to defer the paper on "The Strike," and to suggest to our able correspondent the propriety, now that parliament is sitting, of bringing the subject to a close as soon as possible. We have, without reluctance, already devoted nearly three times the room to these papers which we originally contemplated—we say without reluctance, because, to our minds they have been full of interest—but "necessity has no law."

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The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8, 1843.

SUMMARY.

PARLIAMENT was opened by commission on Thursday last, and the royal speech, by an appropriate coincidence, was immediately followed by cold weather. Nature was seized with a sudden shivering fit, and the previously genial, bland, and vernal atmosphere, was agitated by cold and stormy winds. No unapt type, this, of the effect produced upon the political world, by the first appearance of the government manifesto. The Queen's speech, and the debate in both Houses which took place upon it, operated like a sudden frost. In some respects, the result was not a little amusing. Gamboling hopes, like little playful waves, became all at once stiff and rigid, caught and frozen into solidity before they could settle down again into placid evenness. Budding anticipations, so green and cheerful-looking, shrivelled up in a moment. The shouts of exultation, half uttered, like the notes of Baron Munchausen's bugle, stopped midway, congealed into ominous silence—and voluminous clouds of vague, unformed expectation, ascending so careeringly to the sky, dropped to the earth, like hoar frost, to remain until more propitious times shall bid them rise once more. The features of men looked sharper and more pinched than heretofore—comforters quickly made their appearance—and the various classes of the political world, dismissing all ideas of an early spring, wrapped and buttoned themselves up in reasonings, surmises, conclusions, resolves, evidently deeming it expedient to prepare for a bleak winter, even yet.

The speech itself, notwithstanding, was amazingly cheerful and easy. It has about it an air of gay and fashionable indifference. We cannot transcribe it here, for it is longer than usual, but we may attempt a translation of it. It runs thus:—"My lords and gentlemen, Everything goes on well abroad—we are beating everybody we have thought proper to molest, making treaties with neighbours whom it is not for our interest to disturb, and offering our mediation wherever a quarrel is got up without our prompting. We have had a little confusion at home, but we easily put it down—our finances are rather disordered, but, *n'importe*, they will soon be better—we shall attempt a few minor alterations, in law, *et cetera*, and so may Providence guide you to happy conclusions." Such is the pith of this programme of the parliamentary session. The debate was preceded by several woodcocks in the shape of notices—woodcocks we call them, for they all betoken dreary and cold weather for the people. These were, not to consider the present unprecedented distress, but to resolve upon a vote of thanks to the armies in India and China.

The debate on the address in both houses was worthy of the speech. In the Lords, it was a feeble skirmish of parties upon foreign topics, and the noble "tribunes of the people," we think they have been styled, left the child whom they have undertaken to nurse, breaking its heart at home, whilst they went abroad, out of hearing, to indulge in gossip about the affairs of neighbours. Some one hinted, in a kind of under tone, "the child cries," but no one took the smallest notice. In the Commons, the discussion was much after the same sort—a party-bickering. But there appeared to our minds to be one prevailing drift in it. It was a notice to the people, on the part of both sections of the aristocracy, that, however they might occasionally differ with each other, neither of them entertained an idea of surrendering an iota of the protection now enjoyed by the landed interest.

Sir Robert Peel addressed himself, nominally, to the country, really, to his own half-doubting, half-offended supporters. "I admit I have said," he tells them, "that to buy at the cheapest market, and to sell at the dearest, is the true commercial policy of nations—but then I have also said that, considering your circumstances, you ought to have protection—and, gentlemen, take courage—you shall have it. I suffered people to meddle with you last year—but what would they be at? would they be always pecking at you? Gentlemen, they sha'n't." Whereupon Lord John Russell comes forward, and exclaims, "Aye! the body called the League are making a fine bother—mind, I don't sympathise with the League—if you had taken my advice you would never have brought yourselves into these straits—and as to the League, their hash would have been settled—a fixed duty of eight shillings would give you equal protection to any you now enjoy, but then, it would answer the ends of the manufacturers, and they would quickly drop their clamour." And so, with the exception of a few words from Mr Villiers, to the effect that the object of the Anti-corn-law League was "total repeal," and that they hoped to get it, which only raised a laugh, the real interests of the country were left untouched, and the address, which left out the part of Hamlet, was unanimously passed.

The Premier, however, like a skilful general, having calmed and re-assured his own followers, proceeds to abate the rising wrath of the country. On Friday evening, accordingly, Mr Walter, a member, if we mistake not, of the Carlton club, gets up a sort of conversation on the corn laws, wherein he expresses himself confident that the commercial and landed interests of the country may meet and shake hands on the ground of a fixed duty. The subject being thus broached, Sir Robert Peel might reasonably calculate upon some questions being put to him which would afford him an opportunity of whispering to the nation, "Never mind! I don't say I shall be always of the same opinion." In answer, therefore, to a question from Mr Villiers, who, by the bye, we are glad to see has given notice of an early motion for "total repeal," the honourable baronet declares that he recedes in no degree from the free-trade principles he had once avowed—that the act of last session he believes to be the wisest arrangement of the question for the present—that he sees no reason to alter it just now—but that he will not bind himself to retain it when the circumstances of the country shall render an alteration of it imperative. Sir Robert is a clever tactician. To shift the demands of the country from the present to next session of parliament is no bad policy. A trifling modification of the sliding scale, if change be then absolutely inevitable, will again "keep the word of promise to the ear, but break it to the hope." Meanwhile, we may remark that, if the present condition of the country offers no sufficient reason for surrendering the food monopoly, we cannot foresee what reason will be held to be convincing next year. Between this and then the Premier will doubtless do his utmost to ward off the impending danger. By a few minor relaxations of our commercial code, by multiplying treaties with foreign nations, by touching the system of banking, by trifling financial reductions, he may succeed in bringing about that seeming improvement of our domestic affairs which will warrant him in saying, "The system works well, and it is inexpedient to alter it." If the free-traders are indulging the expectation that the monopoly will receive its mortal wound at the hands of this man, they are, in our judgment, most egregiously mistaken. His word is an *ignis fatuus*, which they who are foolish enough to dance after, will, when they are breast-high in mire, find to their cost.

Both Houses met on Monday, but no business of importance was entered upon. The government evidently feels itself to be quite at ease—and having it in contemplation to do but little, proceeds with dignified leisure. One would be tempted by the reports to imagine that the session was on the eve of expiration—so marked an absence is there of either interest or excitement. Said we not right, when we affirmed that all hope from parliament, constituted as it now is, is misplaced and vain? Have we overshot, or fallen short of the mark? But the end is not come yet. We see what the government will *not* do—we have yet to see what it *will* do.

The arrival of the overland mail from India and China places our Eastern affairs in no new light. The evacuation of Afghanistan having been completed, we have set ourselves to hector the Ameers of Scinde into a cession, by treaty, of a portion of their territory lying along the borders of the Indus; because, forsooth, it will be convenient to us, in regard to the navigation of that river. The reports say that the Ameers displayed considerable dislike to the proposal, but significantly add, that the presence of Sir C. Napier, with the army under his command, has done much to abate their eager determination of resistance. Rather cool robbery, this! From China, accounts are favourable. The celestial government seems disposed to keep faith, and waits the arrival of the treaty from Great Britain.

THE NEWEST PATTERN OF VIRTUAL REPRESENTATION.

VIRTUAL representation is one of those showy phantasms played off by whig aristocrats, for the purpose of amusing a people while subjecting them to the unpleasant practice of depletion. It has been found eminently successful in dazzling them to their own undoing. It leaves upon the mind a curious uncertainty as to whether the sum they part with is given by themselves or taken by others. It is just that flourish of *hocus pocus* which serves to mystify common sense. It has had its day, like other quackeries, and like them is destined to be consigned to oblivion—that spacious lumber room for human follies. The latest specimen of it was exhibited on Thursday last, at the opening of the parliamentary session, 1843; and such as it was, we think it not ill-adapted to settle the fate of this once fashionable theory, in every honest judgment.

The general doctrines of free trade, but especially of free trade in corn and provisions, may now, we imagine, be held as received by the electoral classes of Great Britain, as well as by the larger portion of the unenfranchised. No cool observer of passing events can entertain a doubt that did means exist for giving adequate expression to the national will, that will would doom to immediate extinction the present monopoly of food. The triumphant progress, outside the walls of parliament, of the Anti-corn-law League—progress which it would be affectation to deny, and which, retaining all our views, we see no reason to deplore—the ubiquity of their public meetings, and the spirit with which, for the most part, they have been sustained—the popularity of their leading advocates—the ready, zealous, and untiring support yielded them by the press—the splendour of their recent demonstration at Manchester—and the sum of money raised by them to carry on their agitation; prove, most unquestionably, not merely the conviction, but the earnest determination of the public mind on this head. Society, it is evident, is not only tinged superficially, but deeply dyed with sentiments in favour of commercial freedom. On this subject there is not only light but heat—the heart goes along with the judgment—zeal walks hand-in-hand with knowledge. The country absolutely yearns for free trade; and terrified at the steady approach of national bankruptcy and ruin, supplicates, with importunate and agonising entreaty, instant release from those restrictions which bind up its energies, and expose it a helpless victim to inevitable beggary.

Under these circumstances parliament meets—and the House of Commons, an assembly of *virtual* representatives—in what light is it regarded and how does it act? A body composed of men nominally selected to interpret and give articulate utterance to a nation's wishes—ostensibly the creature of the people—called into being for the advancement of their interests—invested with privileges and power dangerously extensive for the protection of their rights—entrusted with their purse, called by their name, and, in appearance, responsible to them for all its movements, is regarded, spoken of, approached and dealt with, as the most formidable foe to their peace and happiness. The country girds itself up to wrestle a throw with its own servant. Instead of representation we have antagonism; and the machinery put together for the purpose of converting public opinion into actual law, is come to be looked upon, as a matter of course, as the main impediment for public opinion to remove. The people's contest is with the people's house—and the country appeals to the country's representative body, not by asserting its wishes and thereupon expecting the execution of them, but by organising its strength, and then throwing down the glove of defiance.

Unhappily, the light in which the British people have been compelled to view the result of the present representative system, was but too amply justified on Thursday last. There was a royal speech delivered by commission, which would appear to have been framed on the supposition that the country, dead to every question of domestic interest, was utterly absorbed in foreign politics—and that it is the business of rulers to care about any and every kingdom rather than their own—dilating upon the triumph of our armies, and dismissing, in a single sentence, the increasing and now frightful distress of our people—admitting the existence of evils too glaring to be overlooked, and maintaining a studied silence upon the obvious remedy—recording the successful application of the force now at the disposal of the governing class, in past encounters with insubordination produced by intolerable misery, and hoping that such force would be found sufficient to meet any future emergencies. There was a debate in the house of Lords, into which nothing more than a slight and passing reference, by a single speaker, to the subject uppermost in the nation's heart, found its way. There was a discussion in the house of Commons, characteristic in several respects—first, for the declaration of the Premier that he contemplated no change in the laws affecting the importation of corn and provisions; and that his sliding scale was

the best arrangement of this question which the present circumstances of the country would admit of—then for the gratuitous profession by Lord John Russell that he did not sympathise with the League, and a reiteration of his confidence in the wisdom of an eight-shilling fixed duty—at a somewhat later stage of the debate, for the reception, with derisive laughter, of Mr Villiers' intimation that the League hoped to carry total repeal; and, lastly, for the absence of any motion whatever for an amendment. The whole thing showed the people and the people's house to be in a relative position of decided and unconcealed antagonism.

Now we put it in all seriousness to our friends and to the country, whether the maintenance of an obstructive machine like our present House of Commons be worthy—we say not of patriotic—but of reasonable men. If the retardation of the legislative embodiment of a nation's wishes for a certain period be desirable, is not that end sufficiently answered by a House of Peers? There surely can be no valid reason for suffering our representative system to constitute the deadliest foe to our national progression. Why should we make with our own hands the power which stands between us and future prosperity—or having made it, why should we retain it? Whatever may become of the food monopoly, the present electoral system can only be expected to produce similar fruits. A house of legislature, chosen by a class, as certainly as water finds its own level, will pursue mainly the interests of that class. "We do not gather grapes of thorns, nor figs of thistles." If the middle classes are now called to suffer, they are their own foes. They give vitality to the system which obstructs their views, and call and keep in being the monster which devours their hopes. If they will feed it, pet it, shield it from all assault, and say to it "Live for ever!"—if they will thus bow down to and idolise a creature of their own, living only by their means, sustained only by their influence, and powerless without their sanction, how can any other results be rationally anticipated? Representation is either a good thing or a bad one. If it be good, why not seek to have it? If bad, why pretend to possess it? Virtual representation is worse than no representation at all. It is taking upon ourselves the responsibility of acts which we denounce; it is offering to others a warrant for committing crimes in our name.

MOVEMENTS AND POLICY OF THE ANTI-CORN-LAW LEAGUE.

THE great demonstration at Manchester, the not inappropriate close of a winter's vigorous agitation, has come off, and as a demonstration was eminently successful. The attendance was numerous, the arrangements admirable, the speeches brilliant and impressive, and the enthusiasm unabated to the last. The following resolutions were passed at the concluding meeting of deputies:—

"1. That this meeting, anxious that no means should be lost which are calculated to impress upon the public the urgent necessity of a total and immediate repeal of the corn laws; and feeling the importance of continuing the efforts of the friends of free trade in parliament, by the strongest expression of public opinion, earnestly recommends that petitions from every part of the United Kingdom be prepared for presentation as early as possible during the session.

"2. That this meeting would strongly impress upon the constituencies throughout the country, the duty of communicating with their representatives, by memorials and personal interviews, in order to induce them to vote for the total and immediate repeal of the corn laws; and believing that the information now circulating by the League among the electors is rapidly creating an unanimity of opinion in condemnation of this law—this meeting recommends to the council of the League, the necessity wherever it may be practicable of holding conferences with the various constituencies, in order that the needful steps may be taken to ensure the return of free trade members to parliament.

"3. Under a strong and deliberate conviction that a free trade in the chief necessities of life is essential to the welfare, not only of trade and manufactures, but of the whole people, whose numbers are rapidly increasing upon a limited soil—that a restriction upon the supply of food and on the exchange of British goods for the food of other countries has vastly impaired, and must ultimately destroy, our manufacturing prosperity, which will inevitably be followed by fearful suffering and ruin among all classes of the people—that a system of restriction exposes agriculture itself to incessant and ruinous vicissitudes, and that perfect freedom of intercourse among the nations of the world would powerfully tend to prevent the horrors of war, and to spread the blessings of civilization—Resolved, that we who are present at this meeting, pledge ourselves never to desist from our efforts to obtain the entire abolition of the corn laws, but zealously to persevere, by our petitions, by our vote at elections for members of parliament, by associations, by our pecuniary contributions, and by all constitutional means, in promoting the accomplishment of that just and righteous end.

"4. That this meeting earnestly recommends the friends of free trade throughout the kingdom to enter into the above pledge or one to the like effect.

"5. That the council of the National Anti-corn-law League forthwith adjourn its sittings *pro tem.* to London, and that it shall summon a conference of deputies at such time as it may deem expedient."

These resolutions we submit to our readers without further remarks than that the assault upon the legislature having been determined upon, we are not ill-pleased to see that it is to be prosecuted with vigour; and that the pledge to continue the

agitation until the end in view is attained is mere waste paper, because the carrying of it out must depend, not upon the will of the agitators, but of the agitated. Funds must come from some quarter, and funds are seldom forthcoming in support of any political movement deemed to be hopeless.

We have always said that the real battle with aristocracy must be fought in the poll booths at the next general election. The efforts made by the Anti-corn-law League for the diffusion of information amongst the electors we regard as worthy of all praise. We believe they are even accomplishing more good than the League intends. To the continued agitation, therefore, of this question throughout the country we do not object—we never have objected. That which we have asserted, and which we still maintain, is, that a separate political movement for a repeal of the corn laws is not so well adapted to secure ultimate success as a movement of a more comprehensive character, aiming once for all to kill monopoly at its source. If our calculations as to the temper of the present parliament prove correct—and hitherto they have been more than realised—then we apprehend the wisest policy to be, to pursue that course which, at another election, promises most favourably for the general issue. We have been accused, week after week, of being inimical to the repeal of the corn laws—spite of our zealous and incessant labours on its behalf previously to the election of the present House of Commons—simply because we have persisted in affirming, what we see no reason yet to disbelieve, that a parliament elected expressly, and at an immense outlay, to sustain the food monopoly, will not be likely to consent to its abolition. We say so still. Earnest, untiring, and popular, as may be the agitation of the League, we have no hope that they will succeed in making an impression upon the present House. Why should we be deemed unfriendly to the cause for telling the simple truth, or why should our predictions be set down to the score of motives we have never entertained? *Has one of those predictions proved false?* We see not why we are to blame in stating beforehand, as likely to happen, what nobody is blamed for stating unequivocally when it has happened. We have always admitted the cause of commercial freedom to be a great cause—a noble cause—a cause well worthy of all the energy which has been devoted to it. The only question is, how that cause is to be rendered triumphant.

In a letter from the Rev. Mr Stokes on this subject, it is stated that the public are disposed to misapprehend the feelings of complete suffragists, in respect of the food monopoly, and to confound them with those chartists who have set themselves determinedly in opposition to the League. We are quite aware of this, but we see no remedy for it but time. If the friends of the anti-corn-law movement will stuff their fingers into their ears and refuse to listen either to explanations or to reason, they are very likely to misapprehend both our purposes and our temper. But we cannot help that. We maintain that, however we may have given offence to them, we have never thrown a single impediment in the way of the cause. If we have not placed implicit faith in the Council of the League, and have been jealous of what appeared to us to be coqueting with whig influence, we see not how that can be held to imply disinclination for repeal. So far are we, however, from having objects at variance with free trade, that we hold ourselves to be taking the direct course to it; and, for our own parts, we would withhold support from any candidate for a seat in parliament who, albeit professing complete suffrage principles, repudiated at the same time the destruction of commercial monopoly. Every man returned with our sanction as a parliamentary reformer, would also be a corn law repealer. We do not throw away the minor, in attempting the major, object; they only who refuse to listen to the last can be fairly said to stand in the way of the first.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SCAPE-GOAT.

In former days when royal striplings grievously violated the known rules of propriety, the back of some unfortunate servant was laid bare to the skin, and the lash unsparely applied to the substitute. The case of Sudbury is in some respects similar, and in some it differs. Sudbury can hardly be called an Abdiel among boroughs, "faithful among the faithless." It has certainly done its part in dabbling with corruption. The only marked difference between it and other town constituencies is, that Sudbury has been an open and unblushing sinner, whilst others have always secretly practised their good-natured propensities to poor electors, and "blushed to find it fame." It is rather hard, we must say, after the exposures of last session, for a House composed of men elected by similar means, to turn short upon this devoted town—call it rascal—take it by the throat, and rob it of the franchise. Our detestation for electoral corruption is as strong and sincere as that of most; and because it is both sincere and strong, we have unremittingly urged the doctrines of complete suffrage. The disease being universal, we are anxious

to see the application of an universal remedy; and we have no great faith in the virtue which cuts off a single joint, leaving the whole body in an equal state of unsoundness. Mr Duncombe, we find, is of the same opinion, but is willing to sacrifice Sudbury for the sake of example. Now, we question very much the wholesome influence of such an example upon the electoral bodies. The only effect of severity thus partially applied will be, to make constituents more cautious of the mode in which they conduct their unfair practices, and give to the House of Commons a cheap opportunity of professing to the world that these enormities are not sanctioned by them.

We learn from the *Ipswich Express* that Mr Vincent was on the ground preparing to become a candidate for a seat in that borough. The proceedings in parliament on Monday night will, of course, nip this plan in the bud; for there can now be little doubt that Sudbury will be disfranchised. We think the policy of the complete suffrage party, in putting forward their own candidates at every practicable vacancy, is extremely wise. We last week signified our hearty approval of the promptitude of the friends of that cause at Sheffield, and of their sound discretion in determining to invite Colonel Thompson to stand for that borough. Sheffield, as one of our most important seats of manufacture, could not do a more appropriate or graceful act than to elect the father of the anti-corn-law cause. Rejected by Manchester for a Suffolk squire, and formerly denounced by the Council of the League as impracticable, we hope yet to see the Colonel in his right place, presiding in partment over a movement which himself may be said to have originated. There would seem, however, to be some fatal and unrevealed repugnance to put the veteran repealer in his proper place. The *Leeds Mercury* suggests Mr Bright for Sheffield. We have no objection to Mr Bright, and would ourselves promote his return on a fitting occasion; but why must Mr Bright be thrust between the Sheffield electors and Colonel Thompson? What is there objectionable in the author of the "Corn-law Catechism"? Why is he ever to be kept in the back-ground? These queries, although we can answer satisfactorily to ourselves, we have no present intention of answering to the public. Perhaps, however, we may.

The Complete Suffrage Movement.

At the weekly meeting of the committee, held at the offices of the Union, on Monday last, the following business was transacted:—

"It was resolved—That the monthly meeting of the council be postponed till Monday, the 21st inst., to enable Mr Vincent, who is now at Sudbury, to attend and lecture on that occasion."

Mr Albright reported the progress made, respecting the establishment of a tract dépôt, and the subject was continued.

"Resolved—That Messrs Morgan and Albright be requested to consider the necessary preliminaries to the election of the council for next year; and also to report upon any alteration in the laws of the Union which may be considered advisable."

Letters were read from F. J. Taylor, Woodbridge; R. K. Philp, Banbury; Thos Thompson, Sunderland; Wm Sharman Crawford, M.P.; Rev. B. Godwin, Oxford; Josh Wells, Kettering. We give the following extract from a letter from the Rev. W. Leask:—

"Chapmanslade, Frome, 4th Feb., 1843.

"DEAR SIR—Mr C. Clarke lectured in Westbury last week, and I hope doors will open for him in a few days in the immediate neighbourhood. These counties are so much under the influence of the landed interest, that in a thousand instances the people are afraid to give utterance to their breathings after political liberty. I have long thought that a vigorous distribution of tracts would prepare the way for a public expression of those sentiments they already entertain; hence I am glad you have decided on this plan of operation, as one of the modes of realising a full representation. I continue to keep the subject before the readers of the *Wiltshire Independent* by letters; and the enlightened editor of that paper is one of the most decided friends we have in the West. Perhaps the suggestion is needless, but I think that there should be issued from your dépôt some very short and simply written tracts, on the leading features of complete suffrage. Their circulation among the villages would be certain of numerous readers. I have tried the plan successfully on temperance. Doubtless you will find numerous friends of this movement willing to write such tracts as are required, and many others who would purchase quantities for gratuitous circulation. After all, this is but a subordinate though useful kind of agency. The great body of the people are ready, anxiously waiting for their political rights. I am more and more convinced that our business is with the electors. We must appeal to them—to their sense of right and wrong—their love of justice—the responsibility of their political position—and the great law of Christian equity. This conviction decided the course I took at the conference; and of course the same conviction not only justified, in my opinion, but rendered necessary, the procedure of the minority. Our secession is the proof of our sincerity, and the guarantee of our future efforts to conciliate the electors, and to gain their adhesion to political truths, which though unhappily mixed up in the view of superficial thinkers with painful associations, are in themselves gems of richest lustre.

"I send you herewith my last published letter; just as a specimen of the kind of illustration suitable, especially in rural districts. It is not perhaps appropriate for very polished people, but we must adapt our style to our hearers."

"I am very respectfully,

"W. LEASK."

THE NONCONFORMIST.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Christianus" declined for want of room.
The article on "Capital Punishment" reluctantly, and with many thanks, declined for the same reason.
If the writer of a review on Dr Marshall's work will call upon us, we may be able to suggest to him such alterations in it as would render it suitable for our columns.
"An Anxious Enquirer" next week.
"Querist." The legal questions we are unable to answer; the others we may touch upon as opportunity presents.

We are obliged this week to defer the paper on "The Strike," and to suggest to our able correspondent the propriety, now that parliament is sitting, of bringing the subject to a close as soon as possible. We have, without reluctance, already devoted nearly three times the room to these papers which we originally contemplated—we say without reluctance, because, to our minds they have been full of interest—but "necessity has no law."

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The *Nonconformist*.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8, 1843.

SUMMARY.

PARLIAMENT was opened by commission on Thursday last, and the royal speech, by an appropriate coincidence, was immediately followed by cold weather. Nature was seized with a sudden shivering fit, and the previously genial, bland, and vernal atmosphere, was agitated by cold and stormy winds. No unapt type, this, of the effect produced upon the political world, by the first appearance of the government manifesto. The Queen's speech, and the debate in both Houses which took place upon it, operated like a sudden frost. In some respects, the result was not a little amusing. Gamboling hopes, like little playful waves, became all at once stiff and rigid, caught and frozen into solidity before they could settle down again into placid evenness. Budding anticipations, so green and cheerful-looking, shrivelled up in a moment. The shouts of exultation, half uttered, like the notes of Baron Munchausen's bugle, stopped midway, congealed into ominous silence—and voluminous clouds of vague, unformed expectation, ascending so carelessly to the sky, dropped to the earth, like hoar frost, to remain until more propitious times shall bid them rise once more. The features of men looked sharper and more pinched than heretofore—comforters quickly made their appearance—and the various classes of the political world, dismissing all ideas of an early spring, wrapped and buttoned themselves up in reasonings, surmises, conclusions, resolves, evidently deeming it expedient to prepare for a bleak winter, even yet.

The speech itself, notwithstanding, was amazingly cheerful and easy. It has about it an air of gay and fashionable indifference. We cannot transcribe it here, for it is longer than usual, but we may attempt a translation of it. It runs thus:—"My lords and gentlemen, Everything goes on well abroad—we are beating everybody we have thought proper to molest, making treaties with neighbours whom it is not for our interest to disturb, and offering our mediation wherever a quarrel is got up without our prompting. We have had a little confusion at home, but we easily put it down—our finances are rather disordered, but, *n'importe*, they will soon be better—we shall attempt a few minor alterations, in law, *et cetera*, and so may Providence guide you to happy conclusions." Such is the pith of this programme of the parliamentary session. The debate was preceded by several woodcocks in the shape of notices—woodcocks we call them, for they all be token dreary and cold weather for the people. These were, not to consider the present unprecedented distress, but to resolve upon a vote of thanks to the armies in India and China.

The debate on the address in both houses was worthy of the speech. In the Lords, it was a feeble skirmish of parties upon foreign topics, and the noble "tribunes of the people," we think they have been styled, left the child whom they have undertaken to nurse, breaking its heart at home, whilst they went abroad, out of hearing, to indulge in gossip about the affairs of neighbours. Some one hinted, in a kind of under tone, "the child cries," but no one took the smallest notice. In the Commons, the discussion was much after the same sort—a party-bickering. But there appeared to our minds to be one prevailing drift in it. It was a notice to the people, on the part of both sections of the aristocracy, that, however they might occasionally differ with each other, neither of them entertained an idea of surrendering an iota of the protection now enjoyed by the landed interest.

Sir Robert Peel addressed himself, nominally, to the country, really, to his own half-doubting, half-offended supporters. "I admit I have said," he tells them, "that to buy at the cheapest market, and to sell at the dearest, is the true commercial policy of nations—but then I have also said that, considering your circumstances, you ought to have protection—and, gentlemen, take courage—you shall have it. I suffered people to meddle with you last year—but what would they be at? would they be always pecking at you? Gentlemen, they sha'n't." Whereupon Lord John Russell comes forward, and exclaims, "Aye! the body called the League are making a fine poth—mind, I don't sympathise with the League—if you had taken my advice you would never have brought yourselves into these straits—and as to the League, their hash would have been settled—a fixed duty of eight shillings would give you equal protection to any you now enjoy, but then, it would answer the ends of the manufacturers, and they would quickly drop their clamour." And so, with the exception of a few words from Mr Villiers, to the effect that the object of the Anti-corn-law League was "total repeal," and that they hoped to get it, which only raised a laugh, the real interests of the country were left untouched, and the address, which left out the part of Hamlet, was unanimously passed.

The Premier, however, like a skilful general, having calmed and re-assured his own followers, proceeds to abate the rising wrath of the country. On Friday evening, accordingly, Mr Walter, a member, if we mistake not, of the Carlton club, gets up a sort of conversation on the corn laws, wherein he expresses himself confident that the commercial and landed interests of the country may meet and shake hands on the ground of a fixed duty. The subject being thus broached, Sir Robert Peel might reasonably calculate upon some questions being put to him which would afford him an opportunity of whispering to the nation, "Never mind! I don't say I shall be always of the same opinion." In answer, therefore, to a question from Mr Villiers, who, by the bye, we are glad to see has given notice of an early motion for "total repeal," the honourable baronet declares that he recedes in no degree from the free-trade principles he had once avowed—that the act of last session he believes to be the wisest arrangement of the question for the present—that he sees no reason to alter it just now—but that he will not bind himself to retain it when the circumstances of the country shall render an alteration of it imperative. Sir Robert is a clever tactician. To shift the demands of the country from the present to next session of parliament is no bad policy. A trifling modification of the sliding scale, if change be then absolutely inevitable, will again "keep the word of promise to the ear, but break it to the hope." Meanwhile, we may remark that, if the present condition of the country offers no sufficient reason for surrendering the food monopoly, we cannot foresee what reason will be held to be convincing next year. Between this and then the Premier will doubtless do his utmost to ward off the impending danger. By a few minor relaxations of our commercial code, by multiplying treaties with foreign nations, by touching the system of banking, by trifling financial reductions, he may succeed in bringing about that seeming improvement of our domestic affairs which will warrant him in saying, "The system works well, and it is inexpedient to alter it." If the free-traders are indulging the expectation that the monopoly will receive its mortal wound at the hands of this man, they are, in our judgment, most egregiously mistaken. His word is an *ignis fatuus*, which they who are foolish enough to dance after, will, when they are breast-high in mire, find to their cost.

Both Houses met on Monday, but no business of importance was entered upon. The government evidently feels itself to be quite at ease—and having it in contemplation to do but little, proceeds with dignified leisure. One would be tempted by the reports to imagine that the session was on the eve of expiration—so marked an absence is there of either interest or excitement. Said we not right, when we affirmed that all hope from parliament, constituted as it now is, is misplaced and vain? Have we overshot, or fallen short of the mark? But the end is not come yet. We see what the government will *not* do—we have yet to see what it *will* do.

The arrival of the overland mail from India and China places our Eastern affairs in no new light. The evacuation of Afghanistan having been completed, we have set ourselves to hector the Amirs of Seinde into a cession, by treaty, of a portion of their territory lying along the borders of the Indus; because, forsooth, it will be convenient to us, in regard to the navigation of that river. The reports say that the Amirs displayed considerable dislike to the proposal, but significantly add, that the presence of Sir C. Napier, with the army under his command, has done much to abate their eager determination of resistance. Rather cool robbery, this! From China, accounts are favourable. The celestial government seems disposed to keep faith, and waits the arrival of the treaty from Great Britain.

THE NEWEST PATTERN OF VIRTUAL REPRESENTATION.

VIRTUAL representation is one of those showy phantasms played off by whig aristocrats, for the purpose of amusing a people while subjecting them to the unpleasant practice of depletion. It has been found eminently successful in dazzling them to their own undoing. It leaves upon the mind a curious uncertainty as to whether the sum they part with is given by themselves or taken by others. It is just that flourish of *hocus pocus* which serves to mystify common sense. It has had its day, like other quackeries, and like them is destined to be consigned to oblivion—that spacious lumber room for human follies. The latest specimen of it was exhibited on Thursday last, at the opening of the parliamentary session, 1843; and such as it was, we think it not ill-adapted to settle the fate of this once fashionable theory, in every honest judgment.

The general doctrines of free trade, but especially of free trade in corn and provisions, may now, we imagine, be held as received by the electoral classes of Great Britain, as well as by the larger portion of the unenfranchised. No cool observer of passing events can entertain a doubt that did means exist for giving adequate expression to the national will, that will would doom to immediate extinction the present monopoly of food. The triumphant progress, outside the walls of parliament, of the Anti-corn-law League—progress which it would be affectation to deny, and which, retaining all our views, we see no reason to deplore—the ubiquity of their public meetings, and the spirit with which, for the most part, they have been sustained—the popularity of their leading advocates—the ready, zealous, and untiring support yielded them by the press—the splendour of their recent demonstration at Manchester—and the sum of money raised by them to carry on their agitation; prove, most unquestionably, not merely the conviction, but the earnest determination of the public mind on this head. Society, it is evident, is not only tinged superficially, but deeply dyed with sentiments in favour of commercial freedom. On this subject there is not only light but heat—the heart goes along with the judgment—zeal walks hand-in-hand with knowledge. The country absolutely yearns for free trade; and terrified at the steady approach of national bankruptcy and ruin, supplicates, with importunate and agonising entreaty, instant release from those restrictions which bind up its energies, and expose it a helpless victim to inevitable beggary.

Under these circumstances parliament meets—and the House of Commons, an assembly of *virtual* representatives—in what light is it regarded and how does it act? A body composed of men nominally selected to interpret and give articulate utterance to a nation's wishes—ostensibly the creature of the people—called into being for the advancement of their interests—invested with privileges and power dangerously extensive for the protection of their rights—entrusted with their purse, called by their name, and, in appearance, responsible to them for all its movements, is regarded, spoken of, approached and dealt with, as the most formidable foe to their peace and happiness. The country girds itself up to wrestle a throw with its own servant. Instead of representation we have antagonism; and the machinery put together for the purpose of converting public opinion into actual law, is come to be looked upon, as a matter of course, as the main impediment for public opinion to remove. The people's contest is with the people's house—and the country appeals to the country's representative body, not by asserting its wishes and thereupon expecting the execution of them, but by organising its strength, and then throwing down the glove of defiance.

Unhappily, the light in which the British people have been compelled to view the result of the present representative system, was but too amply justified on Thursday last. There was a royal speech delivered by commission, which would appear to have been framed on the supposition that the country, dead to every question of domestic interest, was utterly absorbed in foreign politics—and that it is the business of rulers to care about any and every kingdom rather than their own—dilating upon the triumph of our armies, and dismissing, in a single sentence, the increasing and now frightful distress of our people—admitting the existence of evils too glaring to be overlooked, and maintaining a studied silence upon the obvious remedy—recording the successful application of the force now at the disposal of the governing class, in past encounters with insubordination produced by intolerable misery, and hoping that such force would be found sufficient to meet any future emergencies. There was a debate in the house of Lords, into which nothing more than a slight and passing reference, by a single speaker, to the subject uppermost in the nation's heart, found its way. There was a discussion in the house of Commons, characteristic in several respects—first, for the declaration of the Premier that he contemplated no change in the laws affecting the importation of corn and provisions; and that his sliding scale was

the best arrangement of this question which the present circumstances of the country would admit of—then for the gratuitous profession by Lord John Russell that he did not sympathise with the League, and a reiteration of his confidence in the wisdom of an eight-shilling fixed duty—at a somewhat later stage of the debate, for the reception, with derisive laughter, of Mr Villiers' intimation that the League hoped to carry total repeal; and, lastly, for the absence of any motion whatever for an amendment. The whole thing showed the people and the people's house to be in a relative position of decided and unconcealed antagonism.

Now we put it in all seriousness to our friends and to the country, whether the maintenance of an obstructive machine like our present House of Commons be worthy—we say not of patriotic—but of reasonable men. If the retardation of the legislative embodiment of a nation's wishes for a certain period be desirable, is not that end sufficiently answered by a House of Peers? There surely can be no valid reason for suffering our representative system to constitute the deadliest foe to our national progression. Why should we make with our own hands the power which stands between us and future prosperity—or having made it, why should we retain it? Whatever may become of the food monopoly, the present electoral system can only be expected to produce similar fruits. A house of legislature, chosen by a class, as certainly as water finds its own level, will pursue mainly the interests of that class. "We do not gather grapes of thorns, nor figs of thistles." If the middle classes are now called to suffer, they are their own foes. They give vitality to the system which obstructs their views, and call and keep in being the monster which devours their hopes. If they will feed it, pet it, shield it from all assault, and say to it "Live for ever!"—if they will thus bow down to and idolise a creature of their own, living only by their means, sustained only by their influence, and powerless without their sanction, how can any other results be rationally anticipated? Representation is either a good thing or a bad one. If it be good, why not seek to have it? If bad, why pretend to possess it? Virtual representation is worse than no representation at all. It is taking upon ourselves the responsibility of acts which we denounce; it is offering to others a warrant for committing crimes in our name.

MOVEMENTS AND POLICY OF THE ANTI-CORN-LAW LEAGUE.

THE great demonstration at Manchester, the not inappropriate close of a winter's vigorous agitation, has come off, and as a demonstration was eminently successful. The attendance was numerous, the arrangements admirable, the speeches brilliant and impressive, and the enthusiasm unabated to the last. The following resolutions were passed at the concluding meeting of deputies:—

"1. That this meeting, anxious that no means should be left unemployed which are calculated to impress upon the legislature the urgent necessity of a total and immediate repeal of the corn laws; and feeling the importance of sustaining the efforts of the friends of free trade in parliament, by the strongest expression of public opinion, earnestly recommends that petitions from every part of the United Kingdom be prepared for presentation as early as possible during the session.

"2. That this meeting would strongly impress upon the constituencies throughout the country, the duty of communicating with their representatives, by memorials and personal interviews, in order to induce them to vote for the total and immediate repeal of the corn laws; and believing that the information now circulating by the League among the electors is rapidly creating an unanimity of opinion in condemnation of this law—this meeting recommends to the council of the League, the necessity wherever it may be practicable of holding conferences with the various constituencies, in order that the needed steps may be taken to ensure the return of free trade members to parliament.

"3. Under a strong and deliberate conviction that a free trade in the chief necessities of life is essential to the welfare, not only of trade and manufactures, but of the whole people, whose numbers are rapidly increasing upon a limited soil—that a restriction upon the supply of food and on the exchange of British goods for the food of other countries has vastly impaired, and must ultimately destroy, our manufacturing prosperity, which will inevitably be followed by fearful suffering and ruin among all classes of the people—that a system of restriction exposes agriculture itself to incessant and ruinous vicissitudes, and that perfect freedom of intercourse among the nations of the world would powerfully tend to prevent the horrors of war, and to spread the blessings of civilization—Resolved, that we who are present at this meeting, pledge ourselves never to desist from our efforts to obtain the entire abolition of the corn laws, but zealously to persevere, by our petitions, by our vote at elections for members of parliament, by associations, by our pecuniary contributions, and by all constitutional means, in promoting the accomplishment of that just and righteous end.

"4. That this meeting earnestly recommends the friends of free trade throughout the kingdom to enter into the above pledge or one to the like effect.

"5. That the council of the National Anti-corn-law League forthwith adjourn its sittings *pro tem.* to London, and that it shall summon a conference of deputies at such time as it may deem expedient."

These resolutions we submit to our readers without further remarks than that the assault upon the legislature having been determined upon, we are not ill-pleased to see that it is to be prosecuted with vigour; and that the pledge to continue the

agitation until the end in view is attained is mere waste paper, because the carrying of it out must depend, not upon the will of the agitators, but of the agitated. Funds must come from some quarter, and funds are seldom forthcoming in support of any political movement deemed to be hopeless.

We have always said that the real battle with aristocracy must be fought in the poll booths at the next general election. The efforts made by the Anti-corn-law League for the diffusion of information amongst the electors we regard as worthy of all praise. We believe they are even accomplishing more good than the League intends. To the continued agitation, therefore, of this question throughout the country we do not object—we never have objected. That which we have asserted, and which we still maintain, is, that a separate political movement for a repeal of the corn laws is not so well adapted to secure ultimate success as a movement of a more comprehensive character, aiming once for all to kill monopoly at its source. If our calculations as to the temper of the present parliament prove correct—and hitherto they have been more than realised—then we apprehend the wisest policy to be, to pursue that course which, at another election, promises most favourably for the general issue. We have been accused, week after week, of being inimical to the repeal of the corn laws—spite of our zealous and incessant labours on its behalf previously to the election of the present House of Commons—simply because we have persisted in affirming, what we see no reason yet to disbelieve, that a parliament elected expressly, and at an immense outlay, to sustain the food monopoly, will not be likely to consent to its abolition. We say so still. Earnest, untiring, and popular, as may be the agitation of the League, we have no hope that they will succeed in making an impression upon the present House. Why should we be deemed unfriendly to the cause for telling the simple truth, or why should our predictions be set down to the score of motives we have never entertained? *Has one of those predictions proved false?* We see not why we are to blame in stating beforehand, as likely to happen, what nobody is blamed for stating unequivocally when it has happened. We have always admitted the cause of commercial freedom to be a great cause—a noble cause—a cause well worthy of all the energy which has been devoted to it. The only question is, how that cause is to be rendered triumphant.

In a letter from the Rev. Mr Stokes on this subject, it is stated that the public are disposed to misapprehend the feelings of complete suffragists, in respect of the food monopoly, and to confound them with those chartists who have set themselves determinedly in opposition to the League. We are quite aware of this, but we see no remedy for it but time. If the friends of the anti-corn-law movement will stuff their fingers into their ears and refuse to listen either to explanations or to reason, they are very likely to misapprehend both our purposes and our temper. But we cannot help that. We maintain that, however we may have given offence to them, we have never thrown a single impediment in the way of the cause. If we have not placed implicit faith in the Council of the League, and have been jealous of what appeared to us to be coqueting with whig influence, we see not how that can be held to imply disinclination for repeal. So far are we, however, from having objects at variance with free trade, that we hold ourselves to be taking the direct course to it; and, for our own parts, we would withhold support from any candidate for a seat in parliament who, albeit professing complete suffrage principles, repudiated at the same time the destruction of commercial monopoly. Every man returned with our sanction as a parliamentary reformer, would also be a corn law repealer. We do not throw away the minor, in attempting the major, object; they only who refuse to listen to the last can be fairly said to stand in the way of the first.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SCAPE-GOAT.

IN former days when royal striplings grievously violated the known rules of propriety, the back of some unfortunate servant was laid bare to the skin, and the lash unsparingly applied to the substitute. The case of Sudbury is in some respects similar, and in some it differs. Sudbury can hardly be called an Abdiel among boroughs, "faithful among the faithless." It has certainly done its part in dabbling with corruption. The only marked difference between it and other town constituencies is, that Sudbury has been an open and unblushing sinner, whilst others have always secretly practised their good-natured propensities to poor electors, and "blushed to find it fame." It is rather hard, we must say, after the exposures of last session, for a House composed of men elected by similar means, to turn short upon this devoted town—call it rascal—take it by the throat, and rob it of the franchise. Our detestation for electoral corruption is as strong and sincere as that of most; and because it is both sincere and strong, we have unremittingly urged the doctrines of complete suffrage. The disease being universal, we are anxious

to see the application of an universal remedy; and we have no great faith in the virtue which cuts off a single joint, leaving the whole body in an equal state of unsoundness. Mr Duncombe, we find, is of the same opinion, but is willing to sacrifice Sudbury for the sake of example. Now, we question very much the wholesome influence of such an example upon the electoral bodies. The only effect of severity thus partially applied will be, to make constituencies more cautious of the mode in which they conduct their unfair practices, and give to the House of Commons a cheap opportunity of professing to the world that these enormities are not sanctioned by them.

We learn from the *Ipswich Express* that Mr Vincent was on the ground preparing to become a candidate for a seat in that borough. The proceedings in parliament on Monday night will, of course, nip this plan in the bud; for there can now be little doubt that Sudbury will be disfranchised. We think the policy of the complete suffrage party, in putting forward their own candidates at every practicable vacancy, is extremely wise. We last week signified our hearty approval of the promptitude of the friends of that cause at Sheffield, and of their sound discretion in determining to invite Colonel Thompson to stand for that borough. Sheffield, as one of our most important seats of manufacture, could not do a more appropriate or graceful act than to elect the father of the anti-corn-law cause. Rejected by Manchester for a Suffolk squire, and formerly denounced by the Council of the League as impracticable, we hope yet to see the Colonel in his right place, presiding in parliament over a movement which himself may be said to have originated. There would seem, however, to be some fatal and unrevealed repugnance to put the veteran repealer in his proper place. The *Leeds Mercury* suggests Mr Bright for Sheffield. We have no objection to Mr Bright, and would ourselves promote his return on a fitting occasion; but why must Mr Bright be thrust between the Sheffield electors and Colonel Thompson? What is there objectionable in the author of the "Corn-law Catechism"? Why is he ever to be kept in the back-ground? These queries, although we can answer satisfactorily to ourselves, we have no present intention of answering to the public. Perhaps, however, we may.

The Complete Suffrage Movement.

At the weekly meeting of the committee, held at the offices of the Union, on Monday last, the following business was transacted:—

"It was resolved—That the monthly meeting of the council be postponed till Monday, the 21st inst., to enable Mr Vincent, who is now at Sudbury, to attend and lecture on that occasion."

Mr Albright reported the progress made, respecting the establishment of a tract dépôt, and the subject was continued.

"Resolved—That Messrs. Morgan and Albright be requested to consider the necessary preliminaries to the election of the council for next year; and also to report upon any alteration in the laws of the Union which may be considered advisable."

Letters were read from F. J. Taylor, Woodbridge; R. K. Philp, Banbury; Thos. Thompson, Sunderland; Wm. Sharman Crawford, M.P.; Rev. B. Godwin, Oxford; Josh. Wells, Kettering. We give the following extract from a letter from the Rev. W. Leask:—

"Chapmanslade, Frome, 4th Feb., 1843.

"DEAR SIR—Mr C. Clarke lectured in Westbury last week, and I hope doors will open for him in a few days in the immediate neighbourhood. These counties are so much under the influence of the landed interest, that in a thousand instances the people are afraid to give utterance to their breathings after political liberty. I have long thought that a vigorous distribution of tracts would prepare the way for a public expression of those sentiments they already entertain; hence I am glad you have decided on this plan of operation, as one of the modes of realising a full representation. I continue to keep the subject before the readers of the *Wiltshire Independent* by letters; and the enlightened editor of that paper is one of the most decided friends we have in the West. Perhaps the suggestion is needless, but I think that there should be issued from your dépôt some very short and simply written tracts, on the leading features of complete suffrage. Their circulation among the villages would be certain of numerous readers. I have tried the plan successfully on temperance. Doubtless you will find numerous friends of this movement willing to write such tracts as are required, and many others who would purchase quantities for gratuitous circulation. After all, this is but a subordinate though useful kind of agency. The great body of the people are ready, anxiously waiting for their political rights. I am more and more convinced that our business is with the electors. We must appeal to them—to their sense of right and wrong—their love of justice—the responsibility of their political position—and the great law of Christian equity. This conviction decided the course I took at the conference; and of course the same conviction not only justified, in my opinion, but rendered necessary, the procedure of the minority. Our secession is the proof of our sincerity, and the guarantee of our future efforts to conciliate the electors, and to gain their adhesion to political truths, which though unhappily mixed up in the view of superficial thinkers with painful associations, are in themselves gems of richest lustre."

"I send you herewith my last published letter; just as a specimen of the kind of illustration suitable, especially in rural districts. It is not perhaps appropriate for very polished people, but we must adapt our style to our hearers."

"I am very respectfully,
"W. LEASK."

The moderate section of the chartists of Sunderland, disgusted with the conduct of many of their professed leaders, have disavowed all connexion with the chartist party, and have organised themselves into an association called the People's Suffrage and Mutual Instruction society. The following is their opening address to the inhabitants of Sunderland:—

"FELLOW TOWNSMEN.—The above society is formed to assert, advance, and secure the people's right to the suffrage, and to combine with the agitation of that important question a system of mutual instruction, by which the knowledge and moral power of its members may be increased and usefully directed. The political principles of the "charter" and "bill of rights," are those on which it is founded. It is true, associations formed on these principles, and embracing most of the objects proposed by this society, already exist. Of those the National Charter association is the most distinguished. In connexion with it there has been conducted a movement for political freedom almost unparalleled for the energy, enthusiasm, and determination it has displayed. Though objections may be taken to some of the proceedings of the chartist body, yet, intelligent and candid minds will admit the fact, that history records no movement, originating with, and conducted by, an oppressed people, so free from violence, and so distinguished by mental ability and moral power. Why, then, is it asked, is a new association deemed requisite? The answer to this question shall be given candidly, and free from all desire to wound the feelings or prejudices of any.

"In the progress of all great national movements, it generally happens that some individual, favoured by circumstances, or possessed of commanding talents and energy, will be distinguished above all others in connexion with the same cause. His labours naturally excite the attachment and admiration of the body with which he is connected. Guided by discrimination, and kept within just limits, this feeling is a just and useful one, but experience proves its strong tendency to degenerate into mere man-worship. The man, from being associated with the cause, not unfrequently becomes mistaken for it. Stimulated with the fame earned, and praise bestowed, ambition too often acquires such an ascendancy as to become the master passion of the soul. The patriot is transformed into the partisan leader—jealous of all independent co-operators, and intolerant of all independent thought. The progress of the chartist movement has developed this evil. Its existence has greatly impaired the efficiency of the National Charter association. The continuance of it is incompatible with the principles and spirit of liberty. Its removal is therefore the duty of those who are opposed to despotism in all its forms, and most of all, when associated with the creed of freedom. To rescue the people's cause from that evil is one great object of the People's Suffrage and Mutual Instruction Society. Its motto is, Principles—not Men. Its members have resolved on an independent existence—not for division, but for union; the union of minds and hearts on great principles. But while coarse and disgusting language is mistaken for honest plainness of speech—while bullying tyranny occupies the place of zeal—while words are substituted for things—details for principles, and personal prejudices for the love of freedom, that union is impossible, and the people's strength will continue to be utterly wasted. But for such folly the chartists would have hailed with delight the movement for complete suffrage. Considering the latter to be identical with the principles of the charter, the members of this society will cultivate a fraternal feeling towards the Complete Suffrage Union, as well as to the National Charter association. They will cordially support any policy or course, emanating from either, which appears best calculated to forward the principles.

"The Mutual Instruction branch of this society is one which the members believe will be found important and useful. While they admit no other ground for the people's right to govern themselves, by representatives of their own choosing, than the fact that the laws made by such representatives affect the lives, liberties, and property of all; yet they are fully sensible of the importance of knowledge, both as a means of obtaining, and also of rightly exercising the franchise. Hence it is proposed to afford gratuitous instruction in the ordinary branches of education, to all who are willing to embrace this means. Members well qualified have volunteered their services as teachers. How many a worthy working man, gifted with natural ability, is yet unable to read a page of a book, or to write his own name! This need not, and ought not to be. To carry out the objects of the society a commodious and comfortable school room has been engaged behind No. 4, Bedford street. It will be open for the purpose of the society as follows:—Monday evenings, conversation; Tuesday, discussion; Wednesday, education; Thursday, conversation; Friday, education; Saturday, conversation, recitations, and rational amusement.

"Members will have the option of subscribing either one penny per month, or one penny per week; the former entitling them to attend all members' meetings, and free admission to the monthly lectures, intended to be given in connexion with the society; the latter sum will be required from those who connect themselves with the Mutual Instruction branch of the society. Cards of membership, to be renewed once each year, will be furnished to members on the payment of one penny.

"Impressed with the conviction that this country possesses ample and unequalled resources for securing a comfortable existence to all its inhabitants, and believing that the poverty and misery now afflicting it are mainly produced by class legislation, and that such legislation can be abolished only by the union, energy, and intelligence of the people, it is hoped that the liberal inhabitants of Sunderland will feel it to be their duty to encourage and support the People's Suffrage and Mutual Instruction society.

"Any further information respecting it may be obtained on application at Mr James Williams's, Bridge street; or at the society's rooms, any meeting evening, from seven till nine o'clock.

"Bishopwearmouth, Feb. 4, 1843."

LEICESTER.—The Complete Suffrage association of this town have issued a temperate and forcible address to the unenfranchised inhabitants of the town in reference to their abject and distressing condition, and the remedy by means of which their sufferings may be removed. We regret that the crowded state of our columns precludes us from giving more than the concluding portion of it:—

"We the members of the Leicester complete suffrage association, fellow townsmen, have deliberately chosen our ground. We are conscientiously attached to the great principles on which our society rests; we seek your enfranchisement as an act of common justice; we believe nothing short of the uncompromising recognition of popular rights will place the prosperity of our country on a sure and lasting basis, and rescue the nation from those shocks which endanger its tranquillity, and allay that party strife, which, for a series of years, has been the dishonour of these realms. We shall not be driven from our position by the hostility of foes, or by the languor and timid fears of friends. We invite your co-operation, and hold out to you the right hand of brotherhood, and pledge ourselves to aid you, in all constitutional means, in the attainment of your political rights.

"We repudiate all physical force, and will have no communion with those who advocate it; we deprecate all violence, all rudeness, and all uncharitableness; we advocate truth and righteousness for their own sake, and reject all weapons that are foreign to their sacred and beautiful spirit. We shall adopt no low artifices to secure your confidence and support; but leave our principles and practice to speak for themselves, satisfied, if they should be found adverse to the best interests of our country, for ever to relinquish and abandon them.

"We respectfully urge you to enforce your claim to the

privileges from which you are withheld, and to silence all

gainsayers by a steady perseverance in the cultivation of

peaceful, sober, and moral habits; by the dissemination

of your opinions and principles, by reason, persuasion,

and free and candid discussion; and by the united re-

sistance of your aristocratic oppressors on the one hand,

and by discountenancing the insolent despotism of inter-

ested and noisy demagogues on the other.

"A large and increasing body of your enfranchised

fellow subjects are with you, through the country, and

quiet and strenuous efforts will be made to increase their

numbers; their influence will be felt in your favour

whenever a general election shall come.

"We beseech you to bear in mind, that so great a change

as that which the National Complete Suffrage Association are seeking to effect in the policy of this country, is

not to be effected in a day; to remember that rash ad-

venturers cannot serve your cause; that the strongholds

of oppression must be carried by patient perseverance

and enlightened zeal. Be true to yourselves and your

deliverance will come; political freedom, which has

hitherto eluded you like a shadow, must, ere long, be

the inheritance of yourselves and your children."

TAVISTOCK.—TEA PARTY.—A numerous meeting

relative to complete suffrage was held on the evening of

Thursday last, in the spacious room used for elec-

tions, &c., in the Bedford hotel, Tavistock. It was

preceded by a large and social tea party, which was

provided at a shilling for each person. We noticed

among the company J. Rundle, Esq., M.P., and

many other respectable inhabitants of the town. The

teetotal band of music played at intervals during the

repast, which was succeeded by a public meeting, of

which Mr R. Martin was chairman, who, after a few

introductory observations, offered the following sen-

timent for the consideration of those around him:—

"May the earnest and sympathising attention of the good and

honest of all classes, sects, and parties, be speedily and fully

directed to the Christian duty of discovery, and carrying into

effect, some remedies for the awful suffering, physical and moral,

of vast numbers of our fellow-countrymen."

This appeal was responded to, and supported by,

Messrs Wonnacott and Mill in an able, impressive

manner. The chairman then proposed the following

sentiment:—

"May the profound and intimate connexion that exists between

just legislation and a practical observance of the commands of

the good Founder of Christianity be clearly recognised and ear-

nestly enforced by all who profess to obey his authority!"

This was commented upon in a highly animated

and very eloquent manner by the Rev. H. Solly, who very strongly pressed the duty it suggested upon the meeting. The chairman then proposed—

"Honour to the independent members of the House of Com-

mons, who nobly supported the just claim of their fellow country-

men and voted for Sharman Crawford's late motion in favour of

complete suffrage. May they never be weary in well doing."

This was ably dwelt upon by Mr R. Yelland, and

responded to by John Rundle, Esq., M.P., who voted

for the motion referred to. Mr Rundle remarked, in

the course of his address, that he had a satisfaction

which was enjoyed by few members of the House of Com-

mons—that of being sent thither perfectly inde-

pendent, without any expense to himself, adding

that he trusted that he should always continue to do

his duty towards his constituents as, by their recep-

tion of him, they appeared to think he had hitherto done;

and that he would continue conscientiously to vote for such measures as he believed to be for

their benefit, and that of the nation at large. Mr R.

Gribble then moved a vote of thanks to the chair-

man, which was carried by acclamation, and briefly

acknowledged by him. Mr T. Snell proposed the

thanks of the meeting to the band for its gratuitous

and effective services, which were unanimously voted;

and it being then late, after the chairman had stated

that the following Monday was fixed upon for regis-

tering and delivering cards to additional members,

the assembly broke up; and it is thought to have

been one of the most interesting political meetings

that have been held in Tavistock.

DERBY.—On Thursday evening, the 26th ult., Mr

Collins delivered a lecture in the Lancastrian School

room. In consequence of their being several ob-

jects of public attraction, on the same evening, the audi-

ence was not large. Mr Collins's address was

forcible and argumentative. He pointed out the in-

consistency of admitting a principle to be "abstractly

right," and yet denying that it was expedient to carry

it out. Whatever was "abstractly right" was in

accordance with the will of the Creator, and to deny

that it would be advantageous to put it into practice,

was to say that we were better judges of what was

good for us than the Almighty himself. In short, it

was in reality nothing but infidelity. After exposing

the fallacies of the various arguments employed by

our opponents, Mr Collins reminded his hearers that

it was necessary to decide upon the particular modes by which the theoretical principle we advocate should receive its practical expression, and proceeded to explain the justice and reasonableness of the several points adopted by the Complete Suffrage Union. The lecturer concluded with an earnest appeal to the friends of the cause to act up to their convictions, despite the slander and persecution of the world, and sat down amidst much applause. A vote of thanks was then carried unanimously, and the meeting separated.

EDINBURGH.—The adjourned discussion in Dr Ritchie's church, on the conduct of the Edinburgh delegates to the conference, was resumed last week, and was conducted on both sides with great spirit and general good feeling, and terminated about midnight. Mr J. Watson was in the chair, and Mr McLeod read the rules for the guidance of all who took a part in the discussion. The rules were, that the mover and seconder of the resolution should each be allowed twenty minutes, that all others be confined to ten, and that no one should speak twice. Mr Anderson spoke in favour of the resolution moved at the former meeting by Mr Aikman, and which was to the effect, that "this meeting congratulate themselves and their fellow suffragists that the separation at Birmingham did not turn upon or imply any discord as to principle, and that this meeting give to all their delegates full credit for honesty of intention in working out what they believed to be the purpose of their constituents." Mr Cockburn spoke in favour of his amendment, which was, that the following addition be put to the resolution—"But this meeting is of opinion that the delegates would have best served the cause of the people had they acted with the majority of the conference." Various other parties then delivered their sentiments, the majority of speakers being in favour of the original resolution. Mr Lowery said he found fault with the amendment for the spirit it displayed, as he thought it was not right to rip up the grievances of the past. In the course of his speech, Mr Lowery, in replying to the charge brought against the complete suffragists, that their purpose was, or the effect of their conduct would be, to break up the chartist associations; and that that could not be correct, as every one knew that those associations were already prostrate, and that he believed there were more real chartists out of these associations than were in them. After short addresses from Messrs McLeod, H. Rankin, J. Morton, and Dr Ritchie, the votes were taken, when the Chairman declared that the amendment was carried.

FEARGUS O'CONNOR AND THE COMPLETE SUFFRAGISTS.—We have received a long communication upon the above subject from H. B., Reform street, Bradford. We can give only an extract. He says—"Many of us (the working classes) are now convinced that he (O'Connor) has no more design for the acquisition of the charter than Sir James Graham, the home secretary, has, who declares that chartism means nothing but republicanism. There are yet, I am sorry to say, thousands who are so credulous as to believe in his infallibility; but circumstances are fast enlightening the minds of considerable numbers who have hitherto been deceived by him; and ere long, notwithstanding his egotism, his name will become a byword, and he will be hated by all good men. Let the individual, be he who may, who desires and endeavours to make most proselytes, and to establish a union of the electors and non-electors for the attainment of the principles contained in the bill of rights, he is the friend of the working classes, and as such ought and will be respected. United we stand, divided we fall—without union we can effect nothing, but are certain to become an easy prey to the powers that be. Let all denounce as an enemy to his country any man who endeavours to further alienate the middle from the working classes, instead of doing all he can to remove the differences that at present exist between them. Yet, notwithstanding their distressed state, every attempt they have made to ameliorate their condition has been ineffectual, and will, in my opinion, continue to be so until those classes who are possessed of the elective franchise shall assist those who are not to put an end to such a monstrous injustice. It will, therefore, be wise in the non-electors to hold out the hand of fellowship to the electors, and form an indissoluble union. But it is the interest of Feargus to prevent this, if possible; but by the assistance of that indefatigable philanthropist, Joseph Sturge, I feel certain that the day is not far distant when class legislation shall be abolished, and corn laws, laws of primogeniture, and every other bad law, obliterated from the statute book, and all shall become contented, happy, and free."—*Bradford Observer.*

General News.

FOREIGN.

INDIA.

The usual express from Marseilles, in anticipation of the overland mail from India, arrived on Monday morning, and has brought intelligence to the 2nd of January. The news is not of any great importance.

The different corps of the army under the command of General Pollock had crossed the Sutlej, and after their fatigues and their sufferings, their campaigns and their battles, the soldiers were about to enjoy their triumphs and their rewards. The Governor-general, with the Commander-in-chief, and a portion of the army of reserve, was present at Ferozepore on their arrival in the British territory, to welcome them. The batta promised, and the medals, were about to be distributed with a liberal hand, and general rejo

smallpox having broken out in one of the corps, but the correct version showed that the malady was of a mild form, and committed no ravages. Several officers, however, had died on the march.

Among the events which engrossed the attention of the Indian journals during the month of December, the proclamation by Lord Ellenborough, addressed "to all the princes, and chiefs, and people of India," and already so notorious here, had given rise to the most extraordinary comments. It appears to have met with no favour in any quarter, almost the whole of the Indian press denouncing it.

A demand had been made upon the Ameers of Scinde for their assent to a treaty, by which Kurrahee and Tatta, and a strip of land extending along the bank of the Indus, with the towns and forts of Sukkur, Bukkur, and Roree, and as far as their territory reached, should be made over to the company. The Ameers appeared at first eager to make a determined resistance, but the presence of the British army, under the command of Sir Charles Napier, had diminished that eagerness.

There were different reports in circulation respecting the disturbed state of Cabul, where the young son of Schah Soojah, Schah Poore, still maintained himself, as did his brother, Sufter Jung, at Candahar. The adherents of Akbar Khan asserted that he would soon be at the head of a large force, and would take the government from the feeble sovereign of Cabul. Dost Mahomed had an interview with Lord Ellenborough at Loodianah in the beginning of December, and was to proceed with an escort to Peshawur, where he was to reside for some time under the protection of the Sikh government. The intention of the Governor-general to observe neutrality on the subject of the Cabul government was avowed explicitly.

The victories in Afghanistan and China had produced the effect of quieting even the most disturbed parts of the Bundelkund district. It was asserted that some documents had been discovered which tended to implicate the deposed sovereign of Hindostan, or, as he is called, the descendant of the Great Mogul, in those disturbances. The vigilance of the Governor has, however, neutralised all attempts on his part, and on that of his abettors, to create confusion in India.

The rumour of Tharawaddie's death has been contradicted. He appears now to be thoroughly convinced of the inutility, on his part, of trying any struggle with the British power in the East.

CHINA.

The news from China comes down to the 19th of November from Macao, to the 15th from Hong Kong, and to the end of October from Chusan.

The last division of the fleet, having left the Yang Tze-Kiang river, had on the 17th of October reached Chusan, where a portion of the troops was to be stationed for a time, other portions were stationed at Amoy and Hong Kong. This latter colony is governed by Lord Saltoun, and was in a thriving condition. Captain Balfour, of the Madras artillery, who had gained a considerable knowledge of the Chinese language and character, was named British consul-general, to reside at Shanghae. There were various decrees published by the Emperor, in which the national dislike of the Tartars to all foreigners was in some measure concealed, and a wish to maintain the "everlasting peace" exhibited. English merchants and their "families" are to be permitted, according to those decrees, to reside at Canton, at Fowchowfoo, at Amoy, Ningpoo, and Shanghae; and their ships are to have places for repairs. Hong Kong is ceded in perpetuity as a colony to Great Britain, and the Hong, or monopoly merchants, are to be abolished.

Sir Henry Pottinger was expected to arrive at Hong Kong towards the end of November or beginning of December, in order to carry on the negotiations respecting the commercial tariff. The commander-in-chief, Sir Hugh Gough, intended, it was stated, to sail for Calcutta in the beginning of December.

Several of the regiments appear to have suffered severely from sickness. The Chinese were repairing all their fortifications.

FRANCE.

The all-absorbing question of interest among French politicians, and in the discussions of the chamber, has been the address in reply to the King's speech. On Tuesday "a sensation" was created by an amendment in the paragraph respecting the East having been proposed by M. Berryer, and carried by a majority of three against ministers; the numbers being, for the amendment, 206, against it, 203. The question was of minor importance, and therefore was not expected to affect the stability of the government. The debate turned then upon the paragraph relative to the right of search, of which on Wednesday the most remarkable feature was M. Guizot's declaration, "that he would not open any negotiations for the modification of the treaties of 1831 and 1833, until he saw fair prospects of obtaining that modification from England by a common accord, and with success." This challenge to opposition was received by what our neighbours call *profound agitation*. In the course of M. Guizot's speech, and when he was referring to the advantages of an alliance with England, adding, that "England required no sacrifice on the part of France as the price of that alliance," he was interrupted by a M. Garnier Pages, who exclaimed, "This is an English speech." Cries of "order" instantly burst from every part of the assembly. The offender was apparently admonished by the President in some indistinct muttering, and sat down under the galling conviction that his interruption had done much towards confirming the view of the question which the sound sense and eloquence of M. Guizot had already suggested to the

wavering portion of the assembly. To M. Guizot succeeded M. Billant, on the opposition side, in a clever, adroit, and well-delivered speech. He was followed by Marshal Soult and M. Duchatel. The former thus concluded his speech:—

"I have been in London," continued the renowned veteran, "and all France knows the reception I experienced [bravo, bravo]! But in referring to that fact, and in stating that I am a partisan of British alliance, do I forget, or have I ever forgotten, the interests of France? Do I in that avowal convey that as prime minister (president of the council), as Marshal Soult, or as a private soldier, I abandoned or would abandon the interests of my country? Do I, in that declaration, say that I would compromise our national dignity? No, gentlemen, and if the chances of war were again to arrive, either with England or with any other power, I would sacrifice for my country my last breath of life [cheers]! I would, like Marshal Saxe at Fontenoy, have myself borne to the field of battle on a bier, if necessary [continued cheers]. The cabinet accepts the situation in which it is placed by the paragraph of the committee. No man will question my sincerity, when for myself I say that I accept it, for the reasons I gave at the commencement."

After a little display of party feeling on the part of M. Berryer, Barrot, Mauguier, and Delamartine, the President put the question on the paragraph, which was adopted by nearly the entire Chamber, the ministers and a few members of the *extreme Gauche* alone declining to take part in the vote.

SPAIN.

The disputes between the French and Spanish governments relative to the affair of M. Lesseps is not yet settled, but is still the subject of negotiation. Of the approaching elections the correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle* says, "The best and latest opinions formed here of the results of the approaching elections are rather favourable. These opinions are being founded upon intelligence received from the provinces that, although ministers are not very popular, there still exists a feeling amongst the mass of the electors to return moderate members of the liberal party, whose characters would be a guarantee for public order, and the passing of good measures. I should hope, at least, that these views may be realised. Indeed, I would be inclined to go so far as to express my own belief in the fact of the disposition of the great majority of the electors being against the extremes of the several political leaders who solicit their suffrages." On the other hand the *Times* correspondent says, "That a great effort was being made to effect an union of absolutists, moderados, and republicans, to turn out the present ministry, and thereby prevent the consummation of a treaty of commerce with England. Another account states, that Don Francisco de Paula would offer himself as a candidate at the ensuing election at Saragossa, with every chance of success.

Accounts from Barcelona of the 28th ult. state, that great irritation prevailed in that city, and but for the precautionary measures adopted by General Seoane, another and more desperate revolt would take place. The last delay fixed for the payment of the extraordinary contribution having expired, and little more than one-third of it having been actually paid in, the Captain-general had recourse to rigorous means to conquer the obstinacy of the inhabitants, but which equally failed to produce the desired effect. On the 26th, the General, apprehending an explosion, issued a bando, denouncing death against every individual who, by their speeches, writings, or even by songs, should excite the people to revolt. Notwithstanding the menacing attitude of the military authorities, the agitation continued to increase. The soldiers quartered on the 200 wealthiest inhabitants were hooted wherever they appeared, and the people had in several instances removed the numbers from the fronts of the houses in order to annoy the military. M. Borel, a rich proprietor, refused to admit them into his house, and they were afraid to break in the door. On the 27th the twenty-five alcaldes who, had been summoned by the Governor to accompany the soldiers to the houses, having declined performing that duty, had been arrested and confined in the citadel. But, after detaining them for two hours, General Seoane, dreading the consequences of this act of violence, ordered them to be set at liberty. The provisional deputation, on the other hand, positively refused to assess the ordinary taxes, grounding their objection on their not having been voted by the Cortes. That body even intended to leave Barcelona, to settle at San Felin de Llobregat. M. Kock, a rich and influential citizen, who had soldiers billeted on him for eight days, was arrested on the 27th, and conveyed to Montjouich, for refusing to pay his quota of the contribution. The journalists, reassured by the declaration of the military commission, which declared itself incompetent to try offences of the press, commented in the most hostile manner on all the acts of the Captain-general, and even openly attacked the Regent himself. The *Patagayo*, one of the most violent organs of the opposition, having reappeared on the 25th, the police notified to its editor that he would be shot if he published another number. Extreme measures were likewise in contemplation against the *Constitutional* and *Impartial*; and General Seoane, it was said, had threatened to seal up their presses. The letters add, that the exasperation of the public at the forced contribution, and the manner in which it was levied, was nearly at its crisis, and that deplorable occurrences were expected to take place. Some persons imprisoned for non-payment of their portions of the contribution were set at liberty as a measure of precaution.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

SWITZERLAND.—FALL OF AN AVALANCHE.—The *Helvetic* has a letter of the 10th ultimo from Gruyères, in the canton of Fribourg, stating that on the preceding day, as four young men of Estaveneens were ascending a mountain through one of its ravines, an enormous avalanche rushed suddenly down, and buried three of them under its mass. The fourth es-

aped as by a miracle. Thrown by the drift on to a ledge of the ravine, he preserved sufficient presence of mind to mark the spot where his companions were laid, and then hastened back to the village to communicate what had happened. The whole body of the inhabitants went with tools, and set to work with undaunted resolution, although, from the state of the snow above, they were constantly threatened with a similar fate. They had not made a sufficient progress to reach either of their unfortunate fellow-countrymen when the account was sent off. The pressure of air caused by the avalanche was so violent, that a fir tree of a foot in diameter, although not within the course of the falling mass, was removed from the place where it grew and carried to a considerable distance. The same journal has also a letter of the 15th, from Martigny, which says that, in consequence of the immense fall of snow on the mountains, the post from Aoste had not arrived since the 9th. A report was current that there had been an avalanche at Mazenbroz, in the hamlet of Fully, and another at Salvan, whereby several buildings and some cattle were destroyed.

IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.—The Hamburg schooner *Paradise*, Captain Zybrandt, on July 18, 1841, on a voyage from Vaparaiso to Manilla, discovered a group of six islands, thickly studded with cocoa nut trees, and supposed uninhabited, in lat. 9° S., long. 172° W. of Greenwich (supposed not laid down in any charts). The captain named them Paradise islands. The latitude of the northernmost island at noon was made 9° 20' S., and the longitude by good chronometer 172° W. The "Ulye group" is laid down in the English charts, 23 min. too southerly, the most southerly and westerly of those islands being in lat. 7° 32' N., long. 143° 30' E.

DOMESTIC.

METROPOLITAN.

WOOD PAVEMENT.—At a meeting of commissioners of sewers, Sir Peter Laurie gave notice of a motion, "That, in the opinion of this court, the wood pavement in the Poultry is dangerous and inconvenient to the public, and ought to be taken up and replaced by granite pavement." On this subject, Mr Leitch Ritchie, in a letter to the *Times*, says—"It is idle to deny that in London wooden pavements are highly dangerous; but I have had an opportunity of observing that they are perfectly safe in St Petersburg, although there the droskies fly along the streets at a pace which would excite wonder and alarm here. The cause of this difference, in my opinion, simply is, that in England we think our task completed when we have laid down the blocks and filled up their interstices; whereas in Russia the wooden surface is carefully covered with a coating of pitch, or some other substance of the kind, and this again strewed with sand. This process has the two-fold effect of preserving the wood for a great length of time, and forming a surface which is as safe in all weathers as the best macadamized road."

METROPOLITAN IMPROVEMENTS.—During the spring a new street will be made from the docks to Spital-fields church, the whole of the properties having been purchased for that purpose. It is contemplated that the street shall be continued in a direct line to the Old street crossing of the City road, passing close on the south terminus of the Eastern Counties railway, and by which improvement convenient communication between the east and west ends of the metropolis will be obtained. On Wednesday measures were taken, for the first time, to proceed with the formation of the new street to communicate between Oxford street and Holborn. In consequence of an order from the commissioners of woods and forests, several men were employed in the erection of a hoard in Plumtree street and Phoenix street, under the direction of a surveyor, preparatory to the demolition of several houses in the two streets, which will be sold in the course of the week, in the usual way, to house brokers, who will pull them down.

SUDDEN DISAPPEARANCE.—Mr Ralph W. Spearman, the secretary to the Earl of Jersey, the master of the horse, has disappeared under very painful circumstances in connexion with the monetary affairs of that department of the royal household. It appears that, a short time since, the Earl of Jersey, in consequence of certain rumours which had reached his lordship, was induced to call upon Mr Spearman to make up his accounts, for the purpose of ascertaining the amount of money in the hands of his secretary, and the mode in which various sums had been disposed of. On last Friday se'nnight (which was the last day Mr Spearman was seen at the office at Pimlico), at a late hour in the evening, he left home, and although he remained away during the whole of the next day and the following Sunday, no surprise was created at his absence, as he was frequently in the habit of spending those two days with some portion of his family, who reside at Woolwich. Early, however, in the following week the Earl of Jersey received a letter from Mr Spearman, without either date or address, in which he stated, to the effect that, in consequence of the unsettled nature of his accounts with the Master of the Horse, which were in an exceedingly deranged state, it was not his intention again to return to the duties of the office. Mr Spearman has never been since seen; and speculation is consequently very rife as to the whereabouts of the absent secretary. It is expected by his friends that he has taken his departure either for the continent or America. It has been stated that the amount of his defalcation exceeds 10,000*l.*; but this sum is considered to be very far beyond the actual sum for which the defaulter will be found deficient in his accounts. His net salary was 700*l.* per annum, with an excellent official residence at the Queen's mews, and the usual *et ceteras*.

Quarterly average of the weekly liabilities and assets of the Bank of England, from the 5th Nov., 1842, to the 28th Jan., 1843:—	
LIABILITIES.	
Cash . . . £19,342,000	Securities . . . £21,672,000
Bank . . . 10,417,000	Bullion . . . 10,705,000
£30,759,000	£32,377,000

At the Central Criminal court on Thursday, Daniel McNaughten was brought in and placed at the bar, for the purpose of being arraigned. He maintained his self-possession as heretofore, but looked rather paler than at his examination at Bow street on Saturday. Mr Street, the deputy clerk of the arraignment, then proceeded to read the indictment, which contained five counts, varying the charge of feloniously shooting at and killing the deceased Mr Edward Drummond. On being called upon to say whether he was guilty or not guilty, the prisoner (in a faltering and low tone of voice) replied—"I am guilty of firing a pistol, but not with the intent to do any harm. Despair drove me to do it." Lord Abinger: Then you plead not guilty to the offence charged—namely, that of feloniously shooting at and killing the deceased, Edward Drummond? Prisoner: Yes, I do. I had no intention of killing him. Lord Abinger (to Mr Street): Very well. Let the plea be recorded. Mr Clarkson then rose and said, he had to make an application, that the trial of the prisoner might be postponed until next session. The Attorney-general said it was not his intention to oppose the application which had been made by his learned friend for the postponement of the trial, for which reasonable grounds had been shown. But with regard to the money belonging to the prisoner, in the hands of the police, that would not at present be given up. Mr Maule, the solicitor to the treasury, would be answerable for any expenses necessary for the prisoner's defence.

THE PRISONER M'NAUGHTEN.—After Lord Abinger agreed to postpone the trial of the prisoner, he was re-conducted to his cell. Not the slightest relaxation will be made in the precautionary measures which have been adopted to prevent the possibility of his destroying himself. It was expected that he would, when removed, make some further admission; but the moment he re-entered the cell his former apparent sullenness and apathy were again manifested; not even an alteration of the countenance was visible, but he proceeded to take up a book which he had previously been reading, and commenced at the part he had left off.

The Rev. W. Bailey, L.L.D., was indicted for forging and uttering a promissory note. The alleged forgery was a promissory note for £2,875, stated to have been given by the late Robert Smith to Miss Bailey, the sister of the doctor. Smith was a miser, and died intestate. After his death, Dr Bailey presented the promissory note, and also an I.O.U. for the same amount, to the administrators of Robert Smith. The validity of the note was disputed. Miss Bailey, the doctor's sister, to whom it was alleged the note had been given, brought an action against the representatives of Smith, at which trial Dr Bailey gave evidence, and swore that the note had been given to him by Smith. The jury, however, did not believe the rev. gentleman's evidence, and returned a verdict for the defendant. Subsequently the rev. gentleman was apprehended on the charge of forging the promissory note and the I.O.U., and committed for trial. After a long inquiry, Mr Justice Williams summed up. The jury, after deliberating for about five minutes, returned a verdict of "Guilty of uttering, and not guilty of the forgery." Mr Jones applied for a respite of judgment, upon some ground, the nature of which did not reach us. Mr Justice Williams refused to accede to the application. The prisoner was called up for judgment, and Mr Justice Williams addressed him in a feeling manner, and concluded in the following terms:—"It is my duty to show that the law of England regards all men as equal, and if any distinction is made, a severer punishment should fall upon him whose education and station in society ought to teach him not to break its enactments. The sentence upon you is, that you be transported beyond the seas for the term of your life." The prisoner on hearing the sentence, bowed to the Court, and walked firmly away from the bar, apparently not at all affected. The trial lasted 12 hours.

EXTRAORDINARY ACCIDENT.—A severe storm, accompanied by sleet and hail, visited the metropolis on Saturday afternoon. At the New Royal Exchange a singular accident occurred, through the violence of the wind, fortunately unattended with fatal consequences. In the erection of this building, as in other large edifices, certain trucks, technically termed traveling machines, are used for the conveyance of blocks of stone from one part of the building to another. These trucks run on a tram-way formed on a scaffold frame, and are worked by a windlass, which requires three men to turn it. It appears that one of the largest of these machines, having a span of 25 feet, and weighing nearly 3 tons, was standing at the north-western corner of the building, when a gust of wind caught it and drove it onwards to the Corn hill side, from which it was precipitated into the street below, crashing the scaffold in its descent, and creating the greatest alarm in the neighbourhood. Several of the masons were employed within a few paces of where the ponderous machine fell, and their escape was perfectly extraordinary.

SINGULAR AND MELANCHOLY CASE.—On Wednesday last, a most remarkable occurrence took place in the neighbourhood of Bunhill row, St Luke's, which has terminated in the deaths of an old man, named Thomas Burgess, 82 years of age, and of his wife, 80 years of age. It appears that the aged couple, who

were very infirm, resided in Turner's court, Bunhill row, and got their living by vending fruit in the streets. On Monday morning they went out as usual, and whilst pursuing their avocations in Miller street, the old woman stepped upon a piece of orange peel, and was thrown with great violence upon the pavement. She was picked up in a state of insensibility by some passers by, and conveyed in a cab to her own dwelling, where she was attended by a surgeon; but she had sustained such severe internal injuries, that she died in a few hours. Her aged husband, to whom she had been married upwards of 50 years, was inconsolable at his loss, and on Wednesday morning he attended at the registrar's, for the purpose of registering her death, and on his return went into the Blue Anchor public house, in Bunhill row (to the landlord of which he was well known), to rest himself, to whom he began to lament his loss. Whilst there he became extremely affected, and was so much excited, that he requested Mr Blackburn, the landlord, to help him home, as he said he felt he should not long survive his partner, and that he would go home and lay himself by her side, and die there. He was accordingly taken thither; and, on his entering the room where she lay, he placed himself on the bed, and laid his head down on the coffin. He continued in that position for a few minutes, and was heard faintly to ejaculate that he should follow her. Soon afterwards those around not finding him move, raised him up, when they found that the poor old man was quite dead, and had actually expired upon his wife's coffin.

PROVINCIAL.

THE ANTI-CORN-LAW DEMONSTRATION AT MANCHESTER.

The postscript of our last number contained a detailed account of the proceedings of the Anti-corn-law League on the first day's meeting, Monday, Jan. 30, when the amount of the League fund was announced. The following is a brief summary of the subsequent meetings.

Tuesday.

This day was chiefly devoted to the consideration of the effects of the corn laws on the agricultural classes. The deputies met in the Town hall, and the attendance was not numerous. Mr R. W. Greg was the chairman; and he delivered a long address, in which he contrasted the English and Scotch modes of agriculture; imputing the badness of the English methods to implicit reliance on protection, the better methods of the Scotch to superior information and the necessity for greater exertion under a more rigorous climate.

Dr Wade then announced to the meeting that Bodmin was without a representative, and as the pro-corn-law party were already in the field, it was desirable an anti-corn-law candidate should be immediately fixed on [cheers, and cries of "Bright"]. Dr Wade added that he had mentioned the subject to Mr Bright.

Mr Milner Gibson, M.P., then addressed the meeting on the evils of the corn laws, which he designated as a delusion and fraud on all classes, more particularly on the agriculturists. He alluded to some proceedings at a recent agricultural meeting in Norfolk, at which Lord Wodehouse, the lord-lieutenant of the county, presided; and the speakers severally urged the necessity of agricultural improvements. Mr C. J. S. Walker of Manchester, Mr Comb from Berkshire, Mr Chadwick from Doncaster, Mr Sherriff from Scotland, Colonel Thompson, and Mr M. Phillips, M.P., each addressed the meeting at length on the subject of the meeting, and a series of resolutions were passed, declaring that the corn laws were injurious to the agriculturists, detrimental to the improvement of the cultivation of the soil, and therefore a total and immediate repeal was imperatively required. The Chairman announced that the statistics which had been given would be published in a condensed form. The meeting then broke up.

Wednesday.

The deputies, at the sitting on Wednesday morning, were chiefly occupied in examining the effects of the corn laws on the trade and commerce of the country. Henry Ashworth, Esq., occupied the chair, and produced a great number of reports from different manufacturing districts on the state of manufactures and commerce in their respective neighbourhoods, and on the state of the population in those districts. John Rosson, Esq., of London, moved, and S. P. Jackson, Esq., of Bristol, seconded, the following resolution:—

"That it be an instruction to the council to take into consideration and report upon the expediency of circulating among foreign states translations of some of the important documents in evidence published by the Anti-corn-law League, together with a condensed report of the interesting proceedings of the present week."

Mr T. Bazley, jun., after moving a resolution, denouncing protection alike to the agricultural, manufacturing, and trading interest, entered upon an examination of the effects of the corn laws on the cotton trade of Great Britain. He was followed by the Chairman, who adduced a number of facts relative to the distress prevailing in the manufacturing and shipping towns. Mr W. R. Grey confined himself chiefly to the consideration of the injurious influence of the corn laws on the foreign commerce of the country, and moved—

"That the committee on manufactures and commerce be requested to draw up an address, founded on the facts which have been stated to this meeting, to be laid before the general meeting of delegates on Friday."

Thomas Plint, Esq., of Leeds, illustrated the present state of the woollen trade of that town; Mr Hardcastle, of the shipping and coal interest of Sunderland; Mr Taunton, of the silk trade of Coventry; Mr Scholefield, M.P., of the hardware manufactures of Birmingham; Mr Baxter, of the flax trade of Dundee; and Mr W. Rawson, the extreme depression in the hosiery trade. Mr Duncan McLaren moved—

"That this meeting has heard with deep pain the statements of distress and destitution prevailing throughout the great seats of our national industry, and regards with unfeigned alarm the present position and prospects of the manufacturing and mercantile classes; that the facts disclosed afford additional proof, if such were needed, of the ruinous tendency of restrictions on trade, and more especially of the corn and provision laws. That, in the opinion of this meeting, the existing state of trade points to a fearful climax—a lost capital, and an unemployed and starving population; and that a total and immediate abolition of the restrictions on the trade in food is imperatively demanded, in order to the proper sustentation of the people and the safety of the country."

This was seconded by Mr E. Baines, jun., of Leeds; and after resolving to memorialise her Majesty on the distress now existing in the country, the meeting separated.

THE BANQUET.—The first great banquet in the Free-trade hall took place on Wednesday evening, when 3,400 ladies and gentlemen took their seats in the body of the hall, and 400 in the galleries. The hall presented a most imposing spectacle when the company had taken their seats. Every place was occupied, for the tickets had been at a premium for some days past. The arrangements had been so admirably made that the whole of the immense assembly took their seats without the least confusion. The dinner was remarkable rather for its vast quantity and plain substantial dishes than for anything else. As with such an assemblage to serve, and with such great distances from the kitchens to the remote parts of the hall, the hottest viands would have become quite cold were they could have been tasted, there was, of course, a necessity for the banquet being of the nature of a cold collation; which, however, was of the most solid and substantial character. The staple dishes were boiled rounds of beef, roast sirloins, hams, tongues, and German sausages. Besides the number of gentlemen's servants at the principal tables and in other parts of the hall attending on their masters, there were sixty male waiters and fifty female waiters, all distinguished by cards, marking the letter of the table and the number of seats to which it was their duty to attend. A large number of ladies were present. At a quarter-past six o'clock the chairman, Mark Philips, Esq., M.P., and the principal guests, entered the hall, and, amidst loud cheers from the vast assemblage, took their seats at the chairman's table. The vice-presidents of the evening were T. M. Gibson, Esq., M.P.; Joseph Brotherton, Esq., M.P.; and Sir Thomas Potter. Richard Cobden, Esq., was also appointed one, but a domestic affliction prevented his appearing in public at this and the other meetings of the week. At the Chairman's right were James Kershaw, Esq., mayor of Manchester; T. M. Gibson, Esq., M.P. (Manchester); Daniel O'Connell, Esq., M.P. (Dublin); D. Lee, Esq. (Manchester); Robt Hyde Greg, Esq.; Dr Bowring, M.P.; Joseph Brotherton, Esq., M.P. (Salford); Wm Sharman Crawford, Esq., M.P. (Rochdale); the Rev. Thomas Spencer, M.A., rector of Hinton Charterhouse (Bath); Wm Aldam, jun., Esq., M.P. (Leeds); Joshua Scholefield, Esq., M.P. (Birmingham); &c. &c. To the left of the Chairman were the Hon. Charles Pelham Villiers, M.P. (Wolverhampton); Colonel Perronet Thompson; General Sir De Lacy Evans; George William Wood, Esq., M.P.; Sir Thomas Potter; Mr Alderman Brooks; Mr William Rawson; Mr Johnson, of Sunderland; and a number of other deputies. It is unnecessary to give any report of the speeches as the arguments made use of by the speakers have been so often discussed on former occasions. The Chairman opened with an animated speech, and was followed by Mr Milner Gibson, who, alluding to the difficulties under which the League had laboured, said—"We have great difficulties to contend with in this part of the kingdom amongst those who profess not to be opposed to it. Total repeal of the corn laws is a matter of principle. We are told they do not like to support associated parties, that they think anti-corn-law leagues and public associations for carrying public questions are a bad precedent—that such associations are mighty engines, and may be used for evil as well as good. These are the sort of scruples with which we are met; and yet, when we look round, do we not see these very men are themselves willing to assist associations for promoting objects they think beneficial to the community? Do we not see associations for various public objects? And when we have to contend against such a mass of prejudice and political power, are we to deprive ourselves of the great benefit of union?" Col. Thompson, Gen. Evans, and Mr O'Connell came next. The latter gentleman prescribed continued and untiring exertion as the only remedy for every evil complained of—"What then are your hopes? Rebellion? No, no. Violence and tumult? No. These would spoil your cause. What are your hopes then? My tried motto has been to-night taken from me—'Hereditary bondsmen, know ye not' (laughter). I have sometimes hit upon a parody, and as the English have been tax-payers, I may very properly parody the lines thus:—

'Hereditary tax-payers, know ye not,
Who would be fed himself must seize the loaf?'

[Loud and long-continued cheers]. Yes; you must exert yourselves—your sole prospect of success is in your own exertions. And can I for one moment doubt, when I behold this vast assemblage, that these exertions are certain to be made, as they will inevitably be productive of success if they should be made." Dr Bowring, M.P., W. Aldam, M.P., and Mr Bright followed in effective speeches. Various appropriate toasts were introduced, in reference to the absorbing topic of interest, such as "The total and immediate repeal of the corn laws," introduced by Mr Milner Gibson. "Free trade all over the world, and the healths of the foremost leaders in the anti-corn-law agitation."

Thursday.

The meeting of ministers of religion, to consider the bearing of the corn laws upon the physical, moral, and religious condition of the people, took place in the Town hall on Thursday morning. There were about 300 ministers of religion present. The Rev. Dr Burns of Paisley took the chair; and among the ministers present were the Rev. Thos Spencer, Bath; Rev. Wm M'Kerron; Rev. J. E. Giles, Leeds; Rev. J. Acworth, A.M., Bradford; Rev. J. Bakewell, Manchester; Rev. C. Baker, Stockport; Rev. Mr Gilbert, Nottingham; Rev. J. Beard, D.D.; Rev. R. Cairns, Paisley; Rev. H. Dowson, Bradford; Rev. J. Fletcher, Hanley; Rev. R. Fletcher, Manchester; Rev. D. D. King, D.D., Glasgow; Rev. J. W. Massie; and the Rev. T. Scales, Leeds.

Numerous eloquent addresses were made, and resolutions passed on this particular bearing of the question, concluding with the following:—

"That this meeting earnestly invite the ministers and members of all religious communities, to mark with care the ruinous effects of these unjust and cruel laws upon the physical, moral, and religious interests of their own societies, and the suffering classes around them; and appealing to them, as Christians and patriots, respectfully urges them to exert their legitimate influence with the public and the legislature, in all such ways as their judgment may approve, to effect the speedy abrogation of laws which religion and humanity alike condemn; and which, by perverting the purposes and bounty of Divine Providence, have brought a country so signalized by God, to the brink of irretrievable ruin."

The Rev. Dr Wade claimed leave, as a deputy from London for the working classes, to say that the chartists

had come to the determination not for the future to give interruption to the lecturers of the League [applause].

SECOND BANQUET.—The second great banquet took place at the Free Trade hall on Thursday evening. On this occasion the body of the hall was freed of the tables, &c., for the purpose of allowing the ladies and gentlemen to promenade, and under the galleries were ranged the tables containing refreshments. The decorations of the hall were the same as on the previous evening, with the addition of a brilliant light at each end of the table appointed for the speakers, in the shape of the Prince of Wales's feather, formed of jets of gas. An efficient band was stationed in the gallery opposite the chair. John Brooks, Esq., took the chair. J. S. Buckingham, Esq., W. J. McCullagh, Esq., the Rev. Thos Spencer, and Mr. N. C. Wright, of Philadelphia, were among the principal speakers. Mr Spencer made a humorous allusion to the prevailing objection to religious men being political.

He, for one, should be ashamed of himself if he were not political [applause]. All that should be required of any man was, that with his politics he should mix religion, and that with his religion he should mix politics; for there could be no sound religion unless that which was politically so, and politics could never be correct unless they were religiously so [applause]. A wise man would endeavour to do his duty, not only as a man, a master, a father, or a citizen, but as a member of the state [applause]. Whatever were the faults of our nation, they lay on the shoulders of each individual; every man who was righteous tended to exalt a nation, and every one who was not so to degrade it; therefore, every one was bound to take his share in the good conduct of the nation. * * * But it was said the ladies ought not to interfere—the clergy were not to interfere—pious, humble men were not to interfere. Who then were to do it? none but rogues [applause and laughter]. If politics did not become religious men, they ought to have a house of commons and a house of lords of vagabonds [applause], and "We have it". None ought to be members of parliament but fools and knaves, and yet they said it was right for the bishops to sit in that house [applause]. The fact was, that tyrants never liked those who reproved their tyranny. If parliament made or upheld bad laws they were the wrong doers, and it was not those who reproved them that troubled Israel, but the legislature themselves [loud applause].

Friday.

The aggregate meeting of the delegates to the Anti-corn-law demonstrations in Manchester was held on Friday morning in the Town hall, to receive the reports of the committees, and to determine the future course of proceedings to be adopted. Mr H. Ashworth was called to the chair, and Mr Plint of Leeds, and the Rev. Mr Scales of Leeds, successively read the various reports of the deputies that considered the different bearings of the question.

Lawrence Heyworth, Esq., Liverpool, moved the first resolution—

"That this meeting, anxious that no measures should be left unemployed which are calculated to impress upon the legislature the urgent necessity of a total and immediate repeal of the corn laws; and feeling the importance of sustaining the efforts of the friends of free trade in parliament by the strongest expression of public opinion, earnestly recommend that petitions from every part of the United Kingdom be prepared for presentation as early as possible during the session."

Mr Morris, of Halifax, seconded the resolution, which was supported by Mr Rosson, of London, and was adopted unanimously.

John Bright, Esq., moved:—

"That this meeting would strongly impress upon the constituencies throughout the country the duty of communicating with their representatives, by memorials and personal interviews, in order to induce them to vote for the total and immediate repeal of the corn laws; and, believing that the information now circulating by the League among the electors is rapidly creating an unanimity of opinion in condemnation of this law—this meeting recommend to the council of the League the necessity, wherever it may be practicable, of holding conferences with the various constituencies, in order that the needful steps may be taken to ensure the return of free-trade members to parliament."

Alderman Callender seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

E. Baines, jun., Esq., Leeds, moved—

"Under a strong and deliberate conviction that a free trade in the chief necessities of life is essential to the welfare, not only of trade and manufactures, but of the whole people, whose numbers are rapidly increasing upon a limited soil; that a restriction upon the supply of food, and on the exchange of British goods for the food of other countries was vastly impaired, and must ultimately destroy our manufacturing prosperity, which will inevitably be followed by fearful ruin and suffering among all classes of the people; that a system of restriction exposes agriculture itself to incessant and ruinous vicissitudes; and that perfect freedom of intercourse among the nations of the world would powerfully tend to prevent the horrors of war, and to spread the blessings of civilisation."

"Resolved.—That we who are present at this meeting pledge ourselves never to desist from our efforts to obtain the entire abolition of the corn laws, but zealously to persevere by our petitions, by our votes at elections for members of parliament, by associations, by our pecuniary contributions, and by all constitutional means, in promoting the accomplishment of that just and righteous end."

Duncan M'Laren, Esq., seconded the resolution, which passed unanimously.

Somers Harford, Esq., late M.P. for Lewes, moved—

"That this meeting earnestly recommends the friends of free trade throughout the kingdom to enter into the above pledge, or one of like effect."

The motion was seconded by Alderman Walker, and carried unanimously.

John Bright, Esq., moved, and Thomas Plint, Esq., seconded, the following resolution, which was carried unanimously:—

"That the council of the National Anti-corn-law League forthwith adjourn its sittings, *pro tem.*, to London, and that it shall summon a conference of deputies at such time as it may be expedient."

Edward Baines, Esq., moved—

"That this meeting offers its most hearty thanks to the council of the National Anti-corn-law League for their spirited, persevering, self-denying, and invaluable services to the cause of free trade in corn, and would encourage them to proceed in their patriotic course, heedless of opposition or obloquy, till the corn laws shall be entirely abolished."

Thomas Hardeastle, Esq., Sunderland, seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

INVITATIONS TO THE ANTI-CORN-LAW DEMONSTRATION.—The replies of men of eminence to the invitations of the Anti-corn law League are not the least interesting circumstances connected with the Manchester demonstration. Lord John Russell is obliged by the invitation; but "with his opinions it is impossible for him to avail himself of this invitation." The Earl of Clarendon is prevented from coming by engagements which it is impossible to alter; but he praises Mr Greg's prize essay, as "the cleverest and most complete exposition of the corn laws that has hitherto been presented to the public." Mr Edward Everett, the American minister, abstains from being

present, "as it is the duty of a foreign minister to avoid even the appearance of interfering in the domestic controversies of the country in which he is accredited." Lord Campbell says he is sorry that he cannot be present. Lord Kinnaird is kept away by distance, but sends a long free trade letter. Lord Ducie is much reduced by illness, and has become such a skeleton that he is more fit to represent the corn laws than to join the League in their opposition to them. Lord Anglesea regrets that he cannot attend. Lord Westminster cannot attend, but wishes the League ample success. Lord Listowel is detained by business, but as a landowner looks forward to the repeal of the corn laws. The Duke of Norfolk declines the invitation. Lord Melbourne says "If there were no other obstacle, the state of my health is such as to render it impossible for me to be in Manchester on the 1st of next month. But I do not altogether concur in the object which the National Anti-corn-law League professes to have in view, and I still less approve of the means taken by that body and its members, for the attainment of their object." The Marquis of Lansdowne declines to attend, but expresses no opinion on the object of the meeting. The Earl of Derby declines on account of the state of his health. Lord Radnor and Lord Nugent entirely approve of the objects of the League, but the last named on account of his lady's illness, and the first for the same reason as Lord Kinnaird, declines to attend. The Earl of Carlisle is indisposed, but says that "He is, however, impressed with the conviction, that a greater alteration in the corn laws than has yet taken place is necessary for the well-being of all classes of the community."

ANTI-CORN-LAW DEMONSTRATION IN LIVERPOOL.—The Anti-monopoly association of this great city celebrated their principles by a magnificent banquet, given on Tuesday to a number of the leading advocates of free trade in the House of Commons. The Royal amphitheatre, in Great Charlotte street, was magnificently fitted up for the festival. It presented a brilliant and variegated scene of banners, devices, and free trade mottoes. Mr Thornley, M.P., was the chairman; among the guests were Mr Charles Villiers, M.P., Mr O'Connell, M.P., Mr Sharman Crawford, M.P., Dr Bowring, M.P., Mr Charles Hindley, M.P., Sir De Lacy Evans, Mr John Bright, Colonel Thompson, Mr James Wilson, Mr Peter Taylor, and several gentlemen of local interest. Mr O'Connell's was the most novel speech on the occasion, from which, however, we are precluded from quoting.

SOUTHAMPTON, FEB. 6.—On Wednesday last the Royal West India Mail Company's steamer, Avon, left this port for the West Indies, with nearly thirty passengers and a quantity of quicksilver and silver coin. On the same day the Oriental company's steamer, Great Liverpool, Captain M'Leod, left the port filled with passengers to convey the Indian mails to Alexandria. On Saturday the same company's steamer, Iberia, left the pier to convey the mails to Spain, Portugal, and Gibraltar. The Royal Tar arrived here from the Peninsular yesterday. The new West India mail packet, Severn, is expected in Southampton Water from Bristol in about a month's time. The Trent is expected hourly with the homeward mails. West India mails will be due again on the 21st of Feb., and on the 6th of March. The Lady Mary Wood will be due here on the 12th and the Montrose on the 19th inst.—both from the Peninsular.

FRESH DISTURBANCES IN SOUTH WALES.—Three threatening notices have been received at Narberth "workhouse!" to the effect that unless the paupers have better food given them, "Rebecca" will attack the house. A mob assembled a few days since and destroyed the Prince's gate. "Rebecca" the commander, who has now two officers whose *noms de guerre* are respectively "Nell" and "Susan" would seem to emulate the late Captain Rock of the sister island; for, besides the other threatening notices which we have mentioned, one has just been received in this town (Carmarthen) threatening destruction to all turnpike gates on a parochial road; and one by Water street on the old Newcastle Emlyn road is doomed for destruction. What is the most remarkable feature in this insurrectionary movement, for it is an insurrectionary movement, though at present, perhaps, not very formidable, is that neither the civil force nor the military, nor the yeomanry, has been able, not only not to put it down, but has not even succeeded in apprehending a single offender. Thirty veteran pensioners went down from Carmarthen to Saint Clears on Tuesday last, and a troop of lancers are daily expected on the spot. Judging, however, from the past abortive attempts to suppress the lawless movement, people are not very sanguine in their expectations of a speedy restoration of the supremacy of the law. Indeed the Captain Rock-like proceedings in Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire, seem from all we can learn, to assume daily a more threatening complexion. A correspondent says that "at first, the war was directed against the toll gates only;" but that "now the workhouses are to be leveled also," that "Rebecca" is a man of much influence—some persons say a "county magistrate." Another correspondent informs us that "the individual who personates 'Rebecca' is frequently replaced by another, and is not the same on the night of each outrage." It is not the least remarkable circumstance in this extraordinary movement, that when the troops appear in one part of the county, "Rebecca" invariably appears in another, perhaps fourteen or fifteen miles distant.—*Welchman.*

STATE OF TRADE.—Neither in Manchester nor Leeds is there the least symptom of improvement in trade; on the contrary, there seems to be a progressive decline. The Halifax market is in the same

dull state, but in Bolton, Bury, and Bradford, business is somewhat brisker.

COALS IN LINCOLNSHIRE.—A correspondent informs us that an important geological discovery has been made within the last month, of a coal stratum on the estate of T. Colman, Esq., Hagnaby priory, near Bolingbroke.—*Stamford Mercury.*

We learn from several houses engaged in the Nottingham trade, that the orders from agricultural districts have fell off at least two-thirds, and that to effect even trifling sales reduced prices must be submitted to.—*Notts Mercury.*

INCENDIARY FIRES.—Incendiarism seems once more spreading its accursed influence over the country. The *Cambridge Advertiser* has an account of three fires which occurred on Thursday and Friday last, two of them on the premises of Messrs R. and T. Johnson, Burwell hall. The first was extinguished before any serious damage was caused; by the second, on the following evening, six stacks of corn, two of wheat, and two of oats were consumed. About the same time a lodge, in the occupation of Messrs Johnson, and the post office near these premises, were set on fire and burned to the ground. At Baldock, in the same county, a large barn containing clover seed and hay, a cart shed and some other buildings, were consumed by fire, on the premises of Mr Hines, of Newham. This is the third attempt to fire the premises within a month. Tring was also, on Sunday last, the scene of an incendiary fire. A wheat rick, the produce of nineteen acres, the property of Mr Fulks, sen., although every exertion was made to save it, was entirely destroyed.

Early on Friday morning, a hayrick, containing about fourteen tons, belonging to Lord Methuen, at Corsham, Wilts, was discovered to be on fire. By the very prompt exertions of the inhabitants of the town the flames were soon subdued, but not till a great portion of hay had been rendered unfit for use. Lord Methuen has offered £100 for the discovery of the delinquent.—*Wilts Independent.*—A short time before 6 o'clock on Tuesday evening last, a fire was discovered on the premises of Mr Mark Moys, of Stonham Aspal. It began first in the stable, which communicating with the cowhouse and barn, were soon in flames, in which about twenty coombs of corn, a quantity of harness, a few of the implements, and some poultry were destroyed. There is no doubt of its being the act of an incendiary. Mr Jukes, the superintendent of police, with his usual vigilance, soon arrived on the spot, and from the active exertions of this officer, two men, strongly suspected, are in custody.—*Suffolk Chronicle.*—The magistrates acting for the Croydon division of the county of Surrey were on Saturday engaged for several hours in the investigation of a charge against a labouring man, named James Bignell, for having feloniously set fire to a wheat stack and a rick of hay, the property of Mr Thomas Harrison, a farmer at Banstead, on the night of the 27th of January. Various suspicious circumstances were mentioned, tending to implicate the prisoner, and at the close of the investigation he was directed to enter into a recognisance to appear on a future occasion, in case he should be required to do so.

IRELAND.

EXTENDED FRANCHISE.—The Dublin papers have reports of an intention to establish a new franchise in Ireland. A circular has been addressed by the chief clerk of the Dublin poor law commissioners to the clerks of the boards of guardians throughout the country, in which the following passage occurs:—"I am directed by the poor law commissioners to state, that a return is required from you on the forms herewith transmitted, showing the locality, denominations, name of occupier, acreable extent of the land, and net annual value of every tenement valued for poor-rates at £30, or any greater amount, in the portion of the county of —, which is in your union, and for which a separate and distinct return is required." The circular adds—"No portion of a city or town, or of any parliamentary borough, is to be included in the return." It is assumed that the new franchise is to be a £30 tenancy at will, an Irish "Chandos franchise."

SECOND DEFEAT OF LORD MOUNTCASHEL.—The *Cork Examiner* of Monday contains a very long report of the adjourned meeting of the landlords, farmers, and labourers of the baronies of Condons and Clongibbon, held in the court-house of Fermoy on Saturday last, according to the appointment of Lord Mountcashel who presided. His lordship again urged his views regarding the ruinous consequences of the tariff and the corn laws upon the agriculture of the country. A long and animated debate ensued, in which E. Roche, M.P., made a most able and effective speech, which was received with tremendous acclamation. Ultimately Mr Barry proposed an amendment in favour of a just and equitable tenure, and declaring the right of the tenant, in case of eviction, to full remuneration for his outlay on improvements. The amendment was put, when a large majority appeared in favour of it. Lord Mountcashel, being incredulous, put the amendment a second or third time, and at last declared it was carried, amidst the loudest acclamation. Mr Roche, M.P., was then called to the chair, and the meeting separated.

THE FALL IN RENTS.—The *Times*, of Tuesday, records two more instances of the reduction of rents in Ireland, on the part of landed proprietors. One of the parties is J. R. Sturgton, Esq., who possesses large property in various town lands in Meath, and has reduced his rent upwards of 15 per cent. The other instance is that of the knight of Glin, in Limerick, who has made a liberal reduction.

Quarterly average of the weekly liabilities and assets of the Bank of England, from the 5th Nov., 1842, to the 28th Jan., 1843:—	
LIABILITIES.	ASSETS.
Circulation . . . £19,342,000	Securities . . . £21,672,000
Deposits . . . 10,417,000	Bullion . . . 10,705,000
£29,759,000	£32,377,000

At the Central Criminal court on Thursday, Daniel M'Naughten was brought in and placed at the bar, for the purpose of being arraigned. He maintained his self-possession as heretofore, but looked rather paler than at his examination at Bow street on Saturday. Mr Street, the deputy clerk of the arraigns, then proceeded to read the indictment, which contained five counts, varying the charge of feloniously shooting at and killing the deceased Mr Edward Drummond. On being called upon to say whether he was guilty or not guilty, the prisoner (in a faltering and low tone of voice) replied—"I am guilty of firing a pistol, but not with the intent to do any harm. Despair drove me to do it." Lord Abinger: Then you plead not guilty to the offence charged—namely, that of feloniously shooting at and killing the deceased, Edward Drummond? Prisoner: Yes, I do. I had no intention of killing him. Lord Abinger (to Mr Street): Very well. Let the plea be recorded. Mr Clarkson then rose and said, he had to make an application, that the trial of the prisoner might be postponed until next session. The Attorney-general said it was not his intention to oppose the application which had been made by his learned friend for the postponement of the trial, for which reasonable grounds had been shown. But with regard to the money belonging to the prisoner, in the hands of the police, that would not at present be given up. Mr Maule, the solicitor to the treasury, would be answerable for any expenses necessary for the prisoner's defence.

THE PRISONER M'NAUGHTEN.—After Lord Abinger agreed to postpone the trial of the prisoner, he was re-conducted to his cell. Not the slightest relaxation will be made in the precautionary measures which have been adopted to prevent the possibility of his destroying himself. It was expected that he would, when removed, make some further admission; but the moment he re-entered the cell his former apparent sullenness and apathy were again manifested; not even an alteration of the countenance was visible, but he proceeded to take up a book which he had previously been reading, and commenced at the part he had left off.

The Rev. W. BAILEY, L.L.D., was indicted for forging and uttering a promissory note. The alleged forgery was a promissory note for £2,875, stated to have been given by the late Robert Smith to Miss Bailey, the sister of the doctor. Smith was a miser, and died intestate. After his death, Dr Bailey presented the promissory note, and also an I.O.U. for the same amount, to the administrators of Robert Smith. The validity of the note was disputed. Miss Bailey, the doctor's sister, to whom it was alleged the note had been given, brought an action against the representatives of Smith, at which trial Dr Bailey gave evidence, and swore that the note had been given to him by Smith. The jury, however, did not believe the rev. gentleman's evidence, and returned a verdict for the defendant. Subsequently the rev. gentleman was apprehended on the charge of forging the promissory note and the I.O.U., and committed for trial. After a long inquiry, Mr Justice Williams summed up. The jury, after deliberating for about five minutes, returned a verdict of "Guilty of uttering, and not guilty of the forgery." Mr Jones applied for a respite of judgment, upon some ground, the nature of which did not reach us. Mr Justice Williams refused to accede to the application. The prisoner was called up for judgment, and Mr Justice Williams addressed him in a feeling manner, and concluded in the following terms:—"It is my duty to show that the law of England regards all men as equal, and if any distinction is made, a severer punishment should fall upon him whose education and station in society ought to teach him not to break its enactments. The sentence upon you is, that you be transported beyond the seas for the term of your life." The prisoner on hearing the sentence, bowed to the Court, and walked firmly away from the bar, apparently not at all affected. The trial lasted 12 hours.

EXTRAORDINARY ACCIDENT.—A severe storm, accompanied by sleet and hail, visited the metropolis on Saturday afternoon. At the New Royal Exchange a singular accident occurred, through the violence of the wind, fortunately unattended with fatal consequences. In the erection of this building, as in other large edifices, certain trucks, technically termed traveling machines, are used for the conveyance of blocks of stone from one part of the building to another. These trucks run on a tram-way formed on a scaffold frame, and are worked by a windlass, which requires three men to turn it. It appears that one of the largest of these machines, having a span of 25 feet, and weighing nearly 3 tons, was standing at the north-western corner of the building, when a gust of wind caught it and drove it onwards to the Cornhill side, from which it was precipitated into the street below, crashing the scaffold in its descent, and creating the greatest alarm in the neighbourhood. Several of the masons were employed within a few paces of where the ponderous machine fell, and their escape was perfectly extraordinary.

SINGULAR AND MELANCHOLY CASE.—On Wednesday last, a most remarkable occurrence took place in the neighbourhood of Bunhill row, St Luke's, which has terminated in the death of an old man, named Thomas Burgess, 82 years of age, and of his wife, 80 years of age. It appears that the aged couple, who

were very infirm, resided in Turster's court, Bunhill row, and got their living by vending fruit in the streets. On Monday morning they went out as usual, and whilst pursuing their avocations in Milton street, the old woman stepped upon a piece of orange peel, and was thrown with great violence upon the pavement. She was picked up in a state of insensibility by some passers by, and conveyed in a cab to her own dwelling, where she was attended by a surgeon; but she had sustained such severe internal injuries, that she died in a few hours. Her aged husband, to whom she had been married upwards of 50 years, was inconsolable at his loss, and on Wednesday morning he attended at the registrar's, for the purpose of registering her death, and on his return went into the Blue Anchor public house, in Bunhill row (to the landlord of which he was well known), to rest himself, to whom he began to lament his loss. Whilst there he became extremely affected, and was so much excited, that he requested Mr Blackburn, the landlord, to help him home, as he said he felt he should not long survive his partner, and that he would go home and lay himself by her side, and die there. He was accordingly taken thither; and, on his entering the room where she lay, he placed himself on the bed, and laid his head down on the coffin. He continued in that position for few minutes, and was heard faintly to ejaculate that he should follow her. Soon afterwards those around not finding him move, raised him up, when they found that the poor old man was quite dead, and had actually expired upon his wife's coffin.

PROVINCIAL. THE ANTI-CORN-LAW DEMONSTRATION AT MANCHESTER.

THE postscript of our last number contained a detailed account of the proceedings of the Anti-corn-law League on the first day's meeting, Monday, Jan. 30, when the amount of the League fund was announced. The following is a brief summary of the subsequent meetings.

Tuesday.

This day was chiefly devoted to the consideration of the effects of the corn laws on the agricultural classes. The deputies met in the Town hall, and the attendance was not numerous. Mr R. W. Greg was the chairman; and he delivered a long address, in which he contrasted the English and Scotch modes of agriculture; imputing the badness of the English methods to implicit reliance on protection, the better methods of the Scotch to superior information and the necessity for greater exertion under a more rigorous climate.

Dr Wade then announced to the meeting that Bodmin was without a representative, and as the pro-corn-law party were already in the field, it was desirable an anti-corn-law candidate should be immediately fixed on [cheers, and cries of "Bright"]]. Dr Wade added that he had mentioned the subject to Mr Bright.

Mr Milner Gibson, M.P., then addressed the meeting on the evils of the corn laws, which he designated as a delusion and fraud on all classes, more particularly on the agriculturists. He alluded to some proceedings at a recent agricultural meeting in Norfolk, at which Lord Wodehouse, the lord-lieutenant of the county, presided; and the speakers severally urged the necessity of agricultural improvements. Mr C. J. S. Walker of Manchester, Mr Comb from Berkshire, Mr Chadwick from Doncaster, Mr Sheriff from Scotland, Colonel Thompson, and Mr M. Phillips, M.P., each addressed the meeting at length on the subject of the meeting, and a series of resolutions were passed, declaring that the corn laws were injurious to the agriculturists, detrimental to the improvement of the cultivation of the soil, and therefore a total and immediate repeal was imperatively required. The Chairman announced that the statistics which had been given would be published in a condensed form. The meeting then broke up.

Wednesday.

The deputies, at the sitting on Wednesday morning, were chiefly occupied in examining the effects of the corn laws on the trade and commerce of the country. Henry Ashworth, Esq., occupied the chair, and produced a great number of reports from different manufacturing districts on the state of manufactures and commerce in their respective neighbourhoods, and on the state of the population in those districts. John Rosson, Esq., of London, moved, and S. P. Jackson, Esq., of Bristol, seconded, the following resolution:

That it be an instruction to the council to take into consideration and report upon the expediency of circulating among foreign states translations of some of the important documents in evidence published by the Anti-corn-law League, together with a condensed report of the interesting proceedings of the present week."

Mr T. Bazley, jun., after moving a resolution, denouncing protection alike to the agricultural, manufacturing, and trading interest, entered upon an examination of the effects of the corn laws on the cotton trade of Great Britain. He was followed by the Chairman, who adduced a number of facts relative to the distress prevailing in the manufacturing and shipping towns. Mr W. R. Grey confined himself chiefly to the consideration of the injurious influence of the corn laws on the foreign commerce of the country, and moved—

"That the committee on manufactures and commerce be requested to draw up an address, founded on the facts which have been stated to this meeting, to be laid before the general meeting of delegates on Friday."

Thomas Plint, Esq., of Leeds, illustrated the present state of the woollen trade of that town; Mr Hardcastle, of the shipping and coal interest of Sunderland; Mr Taunton, of the silk trade of Coventry; Mr Scholefield, M.P., of the hardware manufactures of Birmingham; Mr Baxter, of the flax trade of Dundee; and Mr W. Rawson, the extreme depression in the hosiery trade. Mr Duncan McLaren moved—

"That this meeting has heard with deep pain the statements of distress and destitution prevailing throughout the great seats of our national industry, and regards with unequaled alarm the present position and prospects of the manufacturing and mercantile classes; that the facts disclosed afford additional proof, if such were needed, of the ruinous tendency of restrictions on trade, and more especially of the corn and provision laws. That, in the opinion of this meeting, the existing state of trade points to a fearful climax—lost capital, and an unemployed and starving population; and that a total and immediate abolition of the restrictions on the trade in food is imperatively demanded, in order to the proper sustentation of the people and the safety of the country."

This was seconded by Mr E. Baines, jun., of Leeds; and after resolving to memorialise her Majesty on the distress now existing in the country, the meeting separated.

THE BANQUET.—The first great banquet in the Free-trade hall took place on Wednesday evening, when 3,400 ladies and gentlemen took their seats in the body of the hall, and 400 in the galleries. The hall presented a most imposing spectacle when the company had taken their seats. Every place was occupied, for the tickets had been at a premium for some days past. The arrangements had been so admirably made that the whole of the immense assembly took their seats without the least confusion. The dinner was remarkable rather for its vast quantity and plain substantial dishes than for anything else. As with such an assemblage to serve, and with such great distances from the kitchens to the remote parts of the hall, the hottest viands would have become quite cold ere they could have been tasted, there was, of course, a necessity for the banquet being of the nature of a cold collation; which, however, was of the most solid and substantial character. The staple dishes were boiled rounds of beef, roast sirloins, hams, tongues, and German sausages. Besides the number of gentlemen's servants at the principal tables and in other parts of the hall attending on their masters, there were sixty male waiters and fifty female waiters, all distinguished by cards, marking the letter of the table and the number of seats to which it was their duty to attend. A large number of ladies were present. At a quarter-past six o'clock the chairman, Mark Phillips, Esq., M.P., and the principal guests, entered the hall, and, amidst loud cheers from the vast assemblage, took their seats at the chairman's table. The vice-presidents of the evening were T. M. Gibson, Esq., M.P.; Joseph Brotherton, Esq., M.P.; and Sir Thomas Potter. Richard Cobden, Esq., was also appointed one, but a domestic affliction prevented his appearing in public at this and the other meetings of the week. At the Chairman's right were James Kershaw, Esq., mayor of Manchester; T. M. Gibson, Esq., M.P. (Manchester); Daniel O'Connell, Esq., M.P. (Dublin); D. Lee, Esq. (Manchester); Robt Hyde Greg, Esq.; Dr Bowring, M.P.; Joseph Brotherton, Esq., M.P. (Salisbury); Wm Sharman Crawford, Esq., M.P. (Rochdale); the Rev. Thomas Spencer, M.A., rector of Hinton Charterhouse (Bath); Wm Aldam, jun., Esq., M.P. (Leeds); Joshua Scholefield, Esq., M.P. (Birmingham); &c., &c. To the left of the Chairman were the Hon. Charles Pelham Villiers, M.P. (Wolverhampton); Colonel Perrott Thompson; General Sir De Lacy Evans; George William Wood, Esq., M.P.; Sir Thomas Potter; Mr Alderman Brooks; Mr William Rawson; Mr Jonassohn, of Sunderland; and a number of other deputies. It is unnecessary to give any report of the speeches as the arguments made use of by the speakers have been so often discussed on former occasions. The Chairman opened with an animated speech, and was followed by Mr Milner Gibson, who, alluding to the difficulties under which the League had laboured, said—"We have great difficulties to contend with in this part of the kingdom amongst those who profess not to be opposed to it. Total repeal of the corn laws is a matter of principle. We are told they do not like to support associated parties, that they think anti-corn-law leagues and public associations for carrying public questions are a bad precedent—that such associations are mighty engines, and may be used for evil as well as good. These are the sort of scruples with which we are met; and yet, when we look round, do we not see these very men are themselves willing to assist associations for promoting objects they think beneficial to the community? Do we not see associations for various public objects? And when we have to contend against such a mass of prejudice and political power, are we to deprive ourselves of the great benefit of union?" Col. Thompson, Gen. Evans, and Mr O'Connell came next. The latter gentleman prescribed continued and untiring exertion as the only remedy for every evil complained of—"What then are your hopes? Rebellion? No, no. Violence and tumult? No. These would spoil your cause. What are your hopes then? My tried motto has been to-night taken from me—'Hereditary bondsmen, know ye not' (laughter). I have sometimes hit upon a parody, and as the English have been tax-payers, I may very properly parody the lines thus:—

"Hereditary tax-payers, know ye not,
Who would be fed himself must seize the loaf?"

[Loud and long-continued cheers]. Yes; you must exert yourselves—your sole prospect of success is in your own exertions. And can I for one moment doubt, when I behold this vast assemblage, that these exertions are certain to be made, as they will inevitably be productive of success if they should be made?" Dr Bowring, M.P., W. Aldam, M.P., and Mr Bright followed in effective speeches. Various appropriate toasts were introduced, in reference to the absorbing topic of interest, such as "The total and immediate repeal of the corn laws," introduced by Mr Milner Gibson. "Free trade all over the world, and the healths of the foremost leaders in the anti-corn-law agitation."

Thursday.

The meeting of ministers of religion, to consider the bearing of the corn laws upon the physical, moral, and religious condition of the people, took place in the Town hall on Thursday morning. There were about 300 ministers of religion present. The Rev. Dr Burns of Paisley took the chair; and among the ministers present were the Rev. Thos Spencer, Bath; Rev. Wm M'Kerron; Rev. J. E. Giles, Leeds; Rev. J. Acworth, A.M., Bradford; Rev. J. Bakewell, Manchester; Rev. C. Baker, Stockport; Rev. Mr Gilbert, Nottingham; Rev. J. Beard, D.D.; Rev. R. Cairns, Paisley; Rev. H. Dowson, Bradford; Rev. J. Fletcher, Hanley; Rev. R. Fletcher, Manchester; Rev. D. D. King, D.D., Glasgow; Rev. J. W. Massie; and the Rev. T. Scales, Leeds.

Numerous eloquent addresses were made, and resolutions passed on this particular bearing of the question, concluding with the following:—

"That this meeting earnestly invite the ministers and members of all religious communities, to mark with care the ruinous effects of these unjust and cruel laws upon the physical, moral, and religious interests of their own societies, and the suffering classes around them; and appealing to them, as Christians and patriots, respectfully urges them to exert their legitimate influence with the public and the legislature, in all such ways as their judgment may approve, to effect the speedy abrogation of laws which religion and humanity alike condemn; and which, by perverting the purposes and bounty of Divine Providence, have brought a country so signally favoured by God, to the brink of irretrievable ruin."

The Rev. Dr Wade claimed leave, as a deputy from London for the working classes, to say that the chartists

had come to the determination not for the future to give interruption to the lecturers of the League [applause].

SECOND BANQUET.—The second great banquet took place at the Free Trade hall on Thursday evening. On this occasion the body of the hall was freed of the tables, &c., for the purpose of allowing the ladies and gentlemen to promenade, and under the galleries were ranged the tables containing refreshments. The decorations of the hall were the same as on the previous evening, with the addition of a brilliant light at each end of the table appointed for the speakers, in the shape of the Prince of Wales's feather, formed of jets of gas. An efficient band was stationed in the gallery opposite the chair. John Brooks, Esq., took the chair. J. S. Buckingham, Esq., W. J. McCullagh, Esq., the Rev. Thos Spencer, and Mr. N. C. Wright, of Philadelphia, were among the principal speakers. Mr Spencer made a humorous allusion to the prevailing objection to religious men being political.

He, for one, should be ashamed of himself if he were not political [applause]. All that should be required of any man was, that with his politics he should mix religion, and that with his religion he should mix politics; for there could be no sound religion unless that which was politically so, and politics could never be correct unless they were religiously so [applause]. A wise man would endeavour to do his duty, not only as a man, a master, a father, or a citizen, but as a member of the state [applause]. Whatever were the faults of our nation, they lay on the shoulders of each individual; every man who was righteous tended to exalt a nation, and every one who was not so to degrade it; therefore, every one was bound to take his share in the good conduct of the nation. But it was said the ladies ought not to interfere—the clergy were not to interfere—pious, humble men were not to interfere. Who then were to do it? none but rogues [applause and laughter]. If politics did not become religious men, they ought to have a house of commons and a house of lords of vagabonds [applause, and "We have"]. None ought to be members of parliament but fools and knaves, and yet they said it was right for the bishops to sit in that house [applause]. The fact was, that tyrants never liked those who reproved their tyranny. If parliament made or upheld bad laws they were the wrong doers, and it was not those who reproved them that troubled Israel, but the legislature themselves [loud applause].

Friday.

The aggregate meeting of the delegates to the Anti-corn-law demonstrations in Manchester was held on Friday morning in the Town hall, to receive the reports of the committees, and to determine the future course of proceedings to be adopted. Mr H. Ashworth was called to the chair, and Mr Plint of Leeds, and the Rev. Mr Scales of Leeds, successively read the various reports of the deputies that considered the different bearings of the question.

Lawrence Heyworth, Esq., Liverpool, moved the first resolution—

"That this meeting, anxious that no measures should be left unemployed which are calculated to impress upon the legislature the urgent necessity of a total and immediate repeal of the corn laws; and feeling the importance of sustaining the efforts of the friends of free trade in parliament by the strongest expression of public opinion, earnestly recommend that petitions from every part of the United Kingdom be prepared for presentation as early as possible during the session."

Mr Morris, of Halifax, seconded the resolution, which was supported by Mr Rosson, of London, and was adopted unanimously.

John Bright, Esq., moved:—

"That this meeting would strongly impress upon the constituencies throughout the country the duty of communicating with their representatives, by memorials and personal interviews, in order to induce them to vote for the total and immediate repeal of the corn laws; and, believing that the information now circulating by the League among the electors is rapidly creating an unanimity of opinion in condemnation of this law—this meeting recommend to the council of the League the necessity, wherever it may be practicable, of holding conferences with the various constituencies, in order that the needful steps may be taken to ensure the return of free-trade members to parliament."

Alderman Callender seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

E. Baines, jun., Esq., Leeds, moved:—

"Under a strong and deliberate conviction that a free trade in the chief necessities of life is essential to the welfare, not only of trade and manufactures, but of the whole people, whose numbers are rapidly increasing upon a limited soil; that a restriction upon the supply of food, and on the exchange of British goods for the food of other countries was vastly impaired, and must ultimately destroy our manufacturing prosperity, which will inevitably be followed by fearful ruin and suffering among all classes of the people; that a system of restriction exposes agriculture itself to incessant and ruinous vicissitudes; and that perfect freedom of intercourse among the nations of the world would powerfully tend to prevent the horrors of war, and to spread the blessings of civilisation."

"Resolved—That we who are present at this meeting pledge ourselves never to desist from our efforts to obtain the entire abolition of the corn laws, but zealously to persevere by our petitions, by our votes at elections for members of parliament, by associations, by our pecuniary contributions, and by all constitutional means, in promoting the accomplishment of that just and righteous end."

Duncan McLaren, Esq., seconded the resolution, which passed unanimously.

Somers Harford, Esq., late M.P. for Lewes, moved:—

"That this meeting earnestly recommends the friends of free trade throughout the kingdom to enter into the above pledge, or one of like effect."

The motion was seconded by Alderman Walker, and carried unanimously.

John Bright, Esq., moved, and Thomas Plint, Esq., seconded, the following resolution, which was carried unanimously:—

"That the council of the National Anti-corn-law League forthwith adjourn its sittings, *pro tem.*, to London, and that it shall summon a conference of deputies at such time as it may be expedient."

Edward Baines, Esq., moved:—

"That this meeting offers its most hearty thanks to the council of the National Anti-corn-law League for their spirited, persevering, self-denying, and invaluable services to the cause of free trade in corn, and would encourage them to proceed in their patriotic course, heedless of opposition or obloquy, till the corn laws shall be entirely abolished."

Thomas Hardeastle, Esq., Sunderland, seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

INVITATIONS TO THE ANTI-CORN-LAW DEMONSTRATION.—The replies of men of eminence to the invitations of the Anti-corn law League are not the least interesting circumstances connected with the Manchester demonstration. Lord John Russell is obliged by the invitation; but "with his opinions it is impossible for him to avail himself of this invitation." The Earl of Clarendon is prevented from coming by engagements which it is impossible to alter; but he praises Mr Greg's prize essay, as "the cleverest and most complete exposition of the corn laws that has hitherto been presented to the public." Mr Edward Everett, the American minister, abstains from being

present, "as it is the duty of a foreign minister to avoid even the appearance of interfering in the domestic controversies of the country in which he is accredited." Lord Campbell says he is sorry that he cannot be present. Lord Kinnaird is kept away by distance, but sends a long free trade letter. Lord Ducie is much reduced by illness, and has become such a skeleton that he is more fit to represent the corn laws than to join the League in their opposition to them. Lord Anglesea regrets that he cannot attend. Lord Westminster cannot attend, but wishes the League ample success. Lord Listowel is detained by business, but as a landowner looks forward to the repeal of the corn laws. The Duke of Norfolk declines the invitation. Lord Melbourne says "If there were no other obstacle, the state of my health is such as to render it impossible for me to be in Manchester on the 1st of next month. But I do not altogether concur in the object which the National Anti-corn-law League professes to have in view, and I still less approve of the means taken by that body and its members, for the attainment of their object." The Marquis of Lansdowne declines to attend, but expresses no opinion on the object of the meeting. The Earl of Derby declines on account of the state of his health. Lord Radnor and Lord Nugent entirely approve of the objects of the League, but the last named on account of his lady's illness, and the first for the same reason as Lord Kinnaird, declines to attend. The Earl of Carlisle is indisposed, but says that "He is, however, impressed with the conviction, that a greater alteration in the corn laws than has yet taken place is necessary for the well-being of all classes of the community."

ANTI-CORN-LAW DEMONSTRATION IN LIVERPOOL.—The Anti-monopoly association of this great city celebrated their principles by a magnificent banquet, given on Tuesday to a number of the leading advocates of free trade in the House of Commons. The Royal amphitheatre, in Great Charlotte street, was magnificently fitted up for the festival. It presented a brilliant and variegated scene of banners, devices, and free trade mottos. Mr Thornley, M.P., was the chairman; among the guests were Mr Charles Villiers, M.P., Mr O'Connell, M.P., Mr Sharman Crawford, M.P., Dr Bowring, M.P., Mr Charles Hindley, M.P., Sir De Lacy Evans, Mr John Bright, Colonel Thompson, Mr James Wilson, Mr Peter Taylor, and several gentlemen of local interest. Mr O'Connell's was the most novel speech on the occasion, from which, however, we are precluded from quoting.

SOUTHAMPTON, Feb. 6.—On Wednesday last the Royal West India Mail Company's steamer, Avon, left this port for the West Indies, with nearly thirty passengers and a quantity of quicksilver and silver coin. On the same day the Oriental company's steamer, Great Liverpool, Captain McLeod, left the port filled with passengers to convey the Indian mails to Alexandria. On Saturday the same company's steamer, Iberia, left the pier to convey the mails to Spain, Portugal, and Gibraltar. The Royal Tar arrived here from the Peninsula yesterday. The new West India mail packet, Severn, is expected in Southampton Water from Bristol in about a month's time. The Trent is expected hourly with the homeward mails. West India mails will be due again on the 21st of Feb. and on the 6th of March. The Lady Mary Wood will be due here on the 12th and the Montrose on the 19th inst.—both from the Peninsula.

FRESH DISTURBANCES IN SOUTH WALES.—Three threatening notices have been received at Narberth "workhouse!" to the effect that unless the paupers have better food given them, "Rebecca" will attack the house. A mob assembled a few days since and destroyed the Prince's gate. "Rebecca" the commander, who has now two officers whose *nomes de guerre* are respectively "Nell" and "Susan," would seem to emulate the late Captain Rock of the sister island; for, besides the other threatening notices which we have mentioned, one has just been received in this town (Carmarthen) breaching destruction to all turnpike gates on a parochial road; and one by Water street on the old Newcastle Emlyn road is doomed for destruction. What is the most remarkable feature in this insurrectionary movement, for it is an insurrectionary movement, though at present, perhaps, not very formidable, is that neither the civil force nor the military, nor the yeomanry, has been able, not only not to put it down, but has not even succeeded in apprehending a single offender.

Thirty veteran pensioners went down from Carmarthen to Saint Clears on Tuesday last, and a troop of lancers are daily expected on the spot. Judging, however, from the past abortive attempts to suppress the lawless movement, people are not very sanguine in their expectations of a speedy restoration of the supremacy of the law. Indeed the Captain Rock-like proceedings in Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire, seem from all we can learn, to assume daily a more threatening complexion. A correspondent says that "at first, the war was directed against the toll gates only;" but that "now the workhouses are to be leveled also;" that "Rebecca," is a man of much influence—some persons say a "county magistrate." Another correspondent informs us that "the individual who personates 'Rebecca' is frequently replaced by another, and is not the same on the night of each outrage." It is not the least remarkable circumstance in this extraordinary movement, that when the troops appear in one part of the county, "Rebecca" invariably appears in another, perhaps fourteen or fifteen miles distant.—*Welchman.*

STATE OF TRADE.—Neither in Manchester nor Leeds is there the least symptom of improvement in trade; on the contrary, there seems to be a progressive decline. The Halifax market is in the same

dull state, but in Bolton, Bury, and Bradford, business is somewhat brisker.

COALS IN LINCOLNSHIRE.—A correspondent informs us that an important geological discovery has been made within the last month, of a coal stratum on the estate of T. Colman, Esq., Hagnaby priory, near Bolingbroke.—*Stamford Mercury.*

We learn from several houses engaged in the Nottingham trade, that the orders from agricultural districts have fell off at least two-thirds, and that to effect even trifling sales reduced prices must be submitted to.—*Notts Mercury.*

INCENDIARY FIRES.—Incendiarism seems once more spreading its accursed influence over the country. The *Cambridge Advertiser* has an account of three fires which occurred on Thursday and Friday last, two of them on the premises of Messrs R. and T. Johnson, Burwell hall. The first was extinguished before any serious damage was caused; by the second, on the following evening, six stacks of corn, two of wheat, and two of oats were consumed. About the same time a lodge, in the occupation of Messrs Johnson, and the post office near these premises, were set on fire and burned to the ground. At Baldock, in the same county, a large barn containing clover seed and hay, a cart shed and some other buildings, were consumed by fire, on the premises of Mr Hines, of Newham. This is the third attempt to fire the premises within a month. Tring was also, on Sunday last, the scene of an incendiary fire. A wheat rick, the produce of nineteen acres, the property of Mr Fulks, sen., although every exertion was made to save it, was entirely destroyed.

—Early on Friday morning, a hayrick, containing about fourteen tons, belonging to Lord Methuen, at Corsham, Wilts, was discovered to be on fire. By the very prompt exertions of the inhabitants of the town the flames were soon subdued, but not till a great portion of hay had been rendered unfit for use. Lord Methuen has offered £100 for the discovery of the delinquent.—*Wilts Independent.*—A short time before 6 o'clock on Tuesday evening last, a fire was discovered on the premises of Mr Mark Moys, of Stonham Aspal. It began first in the stable, which communicating with the cowhouse and barn, were soon in flames, in which about twenty combs of corn, a quantity of harness, a few of the implements, and some poultry were destroyed. There is no doubt of its being the act of an incendiary. Mr Jukes, the superintendent of police, with his usual vigilance, soon arrived on the spot, and from the active exertions of this officer, two men, strongly suspected, are in custody.—*Suffolk Chronicle.*—The magistrates acting for the Croydon division of the county of Surrey were on Saturday engaged for several hours in the investigation of a charge against a labouring man, named James Bignell, for having feloniously set fire to a wheat stack and a rick of hay, the property of Mr Thomas Harrison, a farmer at Banstead, on the night of the 27th of January. Various suspicious circumstances were mentioned, tending to implicate the prisoner, and at the close of the investigation he was directed to enter into a recognisance to appear on a future occasion, in case he should be required to do so.

IRELAND.

EXTENDED FRANCHISE.—The Dublin papers have reports of an intention to establish a new franchise in Ireland. A circular has been addressed by the chief clerk of the Dublin poor law commissioners to the clerks of the boards of guardians throughout the country, in which the following passage occurs:— "I am directed by the poor law commissioners to state, that a return is required from you on the forms herewith transmitted, showing the locality, denominations, name of occupier, acreable extent of the land, and net annual value of every tenement valued for poor-rates at £30, or any greater amount, in the portion of the county of —, which is in your union, and for which a separate and distinct return is required." The circular adds—"No portion of a city or town, or of any parliamentary borough, is to be included in the return." It is assumed that the new franchise is to be a £30 tenancy at will, an Irish "Chandos franchise."

SECOND DEFEAT OF LORD MOUNTCASHEL.—The *Cork Examiner* of Monday contains a very long report of the adjourned meeting of the landlords, farmers, and labourers of the baronies of Condons and Clongibon, held in the court-house of Fermoy on Saturday last, according to the appointment of Lord Mountcashel who presided. His lordship again urged his views regarding the ruinous consequences of the tariff and the corn laws upon the agriculture of the country. A long and animated debate ensued, in which E. Roche, M.P., made a most able and effective speech, which was received with tremendous acclamation. Ultimately Mr Barry proposed an amendment in favour of a just and equitable tenure, and declaring the right of the tenant, in case of eviction, to full remuneration for his outlay on improvements. The amendment was put, when a large majority appeared in favour of it. Lord Mountcashel, being incredulous, put the amendment a second or third time, and at last declared it was carried, amidst the loudest acclamation. Mr Roche, M.P., was then called to the chair, and the meeting separated.

THE FALL IN RENTS.—The *Times*, of Tuesday, records two more instances of the reduction of rents in Ireland, on the part of landed proprietors. One of the parties is J. R. Sturgton, Esq., who possesses large property in various town lands in Meath, and has reduced his rent upwards of 15 per cent. The other instance is that of the knight of Glin, in Limerick, who has made a liberal reduction.

Miscellaneous.

FURTHER SHIPWRECKS AND LOSS OF LIFE.—During the last week, various distressing accounts have been received of the loss of life and property at sea, from the late stormy weather. We are unable to do more than merely state a few facts relative to the shipwrecks. Early on Monday morning last, a collision took place in the channel near the Needles. The Papenburgh galliot, Napoleon, while under full sail, the wind blowing a strong gale from the westward, in making through the channel, was run into by a vessel unknown, coming from the opposite direction. Such was the violent force with which the vessel struck, that the master and crew had scarcely time to get into their boats before the ship went down in deep water; the crew got safely to shore.—At Yarmouth, on Friday last, a brig called the Ann, in making the river, struck on the Barnard sands and sunk. All hands perished with her.—The total loss of the splendid war-steamer Ariadne, in the service of the East India company, occurred at night, on the 23rd of June last, near the entrance of Chusan harbour. The Ariadne was an iron-built steamer, about 400 tons burthen, with two powerful engines. She was constructed upon a new principle, for the purpose of navigating the Chinese rivers. The bottom of the steamer was completely perforated. The boats were all launched, and they succeeded in saving the officers and all on board excepting three Chinese.—On Saturday, the Arundel yacht bound for Hong Kong and Macao, went ashore, through the over presumption of the captain, on Winchelsea track, and became a perfect wreck. Assistance was procured from Rye, and the passengers were taken safely on shore. Captain Richardson and his crew remained with the vessel, but finding her in a sinking state, were obliged to commit themselves to their boats and reached Rye in safety.—On the 27th of January, the Douro of Liverpool, was discovered by some fishermen on the rocks near the Scilly Islands on her broadside, with her mast gone, the sea making a complete breach over, and no one on board. The crew in all probability have perished. The vessel afterwards went to pieces, and part of the cargo washed ashore. Intelligence was, in the course of Friday, received by the underwriters at Lloyd's, of the destruction of another fine Indiaman, named the George M'Leod, homeward bound, with a valuable cargo of rum, and 3700 bags of sugar on board, which occurred in consequence of her running upon a hard sand bank on the coast of Scotland, in the Solway frith, within a few miles northward of Skenburness. The crew took to the boat, and after great difficulty succeeded in reaching Southerness lighthouse. They suffered severely from the cold, especially the captain, who is not expected to recover.—Liverpool has again been visited with a tremendous gale from the N.N.W. The sea on the banks was tremendous. In the river so heavy was the gale in the forenoon that not a steamer dared venture alongside the British and North American royal mail steamer Acadia, at her moorings in the Sloyne. The consequence was, that neither the mails nor the passengers could be put on board of her. A small vessel was wrecked on the banks during the night, and all hands drowned. The life-boat had been sent to rescue the crew of a schooner wrecked on the West Hoyle, but could not reach the vessel. Two poor fellows had been visible all day in the rigging. They consequently perished. Tuesday's papers contain the account of the wreck of another East Indiaman, the Larkins, on Sunday morning, on the Walpole rock, near Margate. She drove from her anchors on Saturday night, and though the main and mizzen masts were cut away, she drifted on the rock. The captain and crew still remained on board, and it was hoped that the cargo would be saved. On Sunday morning a party of the coast-guard service, five in number, under their chief officer, Lieut. Lingard, R.N., met with a watery grave in endeavouring to render assistance to the William and Ann of London, collier, which went ashore in Robin Hood's bay, near the ruins of Scarborough castle. The life-boat was launched; but on nearing the vessel she was struck by a wave, turned bottom up, and the whole of the party were drowned. The crew on board the vessel perished also.

THE LATE HURRICANE.—We are indebted to the *Aberdeen Herald* for the following summary, compiled from various accounts, of the loss of life and property during the terrible gale of the 13th ult.—a loss which is, we believe, without a parallel in the history of our mercantile marine. The hurricane seems to have been general, and so awfully sudden that the best of vessels quailed under it; while but few ports afforded anything like a safe retreat for those that could manage to run:

	Total Vessels.	Total Lives.
England and Wales	154	190
Ireland	5	104
Scotland	17	39
Coast of France	4	100
	180	433

Here then we have no fewer than 180 vessels and 433 lives lost in one night. These figures, too, can only be considered as an approximation to the truth—many vessels and lives having, doubtless, been lost, of which no account will ever be obtained. Let us now glance at the amount of property destroyed by the hurricane. If we ascertain the tonnage of these vessels by the average of 150 tons each, and value the ton at £15, which is a very low rate, the loss would stand thus—180 vessels \times 150 tons = 27,000 \times £15 = £405,000. If we average the cargoes at £1,000 each, the amount of goods lost would be £180,000—making the total loss to stand thus—

Value of vessels	£405,000
Value of cargoes	180,000
<hr/>	
	£585,000

It thus appears that upwards of half a million of property, belonging to Scotland and England (the above being all British vessels), was destroyed in one short night. No doubt a large part of it was insured, but that only goes to relieve the owners who were fortunate enough to have it so covered. The actual value of shipping goods lost is upwards of half a million.

CHANGE IN THE ECLIPTIC OF THE EARTH.—The following solution to this marvelous statement, which we copied into our paper a few weeks ago from the *New York Daily Mail*, is contained in a private letter from Thomas Dick, Esq., LL.D. (Broughty Ferry, near Dundee), addressed to Mr La Mont, London:

As to the chief object of your letter, namely, to have my opinion regarding the alleged 'change in the ecliptic of the earth,' I have only to say that the whole is a complete hoax. No such changes as those stated, in the paragraph quoted from the New York newspapers, have been observed by any astronomer; and to suppose for a moment their existence, would be contrary to what has ever been observed hitherto in relation to the motions of the celestial luminaries, and the general physical laws which pervade the universe. You will, perhaps, recollect that a similar hoax was attempted on the public about 6 or 7 years ago, in relation to the moon, in a long article, entitled, 'Wonderful Discoveries in the Moon,' by Sir John Herschel, and which was inserted in all the American, French, and English newspapers, and was believed by certain superficial thinkers. This attempted hoax had its origin in America. It was written by a young man in the state of New York, who appears to have prided himself on the success of his experiments on the public. In pp. 355-6 of my volume, entitled 'Celestial Scenery,' I took an opportunity of denouncing such practices, and showing their inconsistency with the eternal law of truth, and their pernicious tendency in regard to the interests of science; which soon after induced the author to republish, in one of the American newspapers, his 'moon story,' as he calls it—and takes great praise to himself on account of his success in deluding the public. He tells us that his 'moon story' has circulated not only throughout the whole of America, but throughout all the kingdoms of Asia; and that it was read by the Emperor of China, at Pekin, and by most of his subjects. At the same time he takes an opportunity of denouncing 'Dr Dick, of Dundee,' for daring to find fault with his moral principles, on this account; and also denounces a numerous party in his own country, who are 'followers of Dr Dick,' in attempting to connect science with religion. Now, I am perfectly confident, from all the circumstances of the case, that it is the self-same gentleman who has contrived the hoax in reference to 'the change in the ecliptic of the earth.' It proceeds from the same quarter; it is connected, like the former hoax, with an astronomical subject; and it gravely and boldly declares falsehoods, known to be such. In some American papers I lately received there are certain allusions to this subject; and, if I recollect right, they assert that there is no truth in the assertion that a gentleman in Yale college made the statement attributed to him. As to the alteration in the poles of Venus—its change of colour—and the waves of fire rolling over her disk—they are nothing less than bold and impudent assertions, without the least foundation in truth; of which I have full evidence from my own personal observations, having observed this planet, with good telescopes, almost every clear day, both in the daytime and in the evenings, for many months past. The same may be said in reference to what is affirmed respecting Saturn, Herschel, and the star Betelgeuse, in the constellation Orion. The author of this hoax has evidently formed a design to impose upon the public, and make sport to himself at the expense of the credulous; and he evidently takes great credit to himself for dexterity in imposing scientific falsehoods upon the community. Such practices are evidently repugnant to the dictates of eternal truth; and are most injurious to the interests of science. For, when the mass of the community find themselves duped and deceived by such statements, they are apt to infer that some of the most noble and demonstrated truths in science are nothing else than mere fancies. It is to be hoped that this shall be the last time that such vagaries and false statements shall be attempted to be palmed upon the public, or listened to by any individual possessed of the faculty of reason."

DR MADDEN.—Mr Matthew Forster, the African merchant, after having exhausted his own stock of arguments and invective against Dr Madden, for his able and thorough exposure of the base practices of some of his countrymen on the western coast of Africa, in aiding and abetting the slave-trade, appears to have exhausted the stock of his agents also, who crowded forward to do homage to him as the friend of Africa and the enemy of the slave-trade. The Macleans, the Hughesses, and the Bunters are now silent, after having discharged their venom and their calumnies upon Dr Madden. Truth, however, will triumph, however much it may be obscured for a season; and justice will be done to its advocates, however much they may have been abused and slandered. We are rejoiced to see the journals of both the great parties in this country are vying with each other in paying a just tribute of praise to so devoted a friend of the human race as Dr Madden. The *Leeds Mercury* expresses its "high admiration of Dr Madden's zealous and self-sacrificing labours on behalf of the oppressed, first in the British West Indies, then in Cuba, and lastly in Africa." In this they agree with the *United Service Gazette*. Commenting upon a letter from an old and devoted friend of Africa, Colonel Edward Nicholls, highly complimentary to the estimable and benevolent doctor, it says, "Differing as we do from Dr Madden's political opinions, and wholly unacquainted as we are with the man, we cannot choose but echo the sentiments of our correspondent;" and it is added, "we cannot forget that our attention was first directed by his evidence to that atrocious perpetuation of slavery, in violation of every dictate of law and humanity, the 'Pawn System'; and that whatever credit has been assigned to us for our exposure of that system, we are chiefly indebted to

him. * * * The pawn system of slavery was in full operation, until its enormity was exposed by Dr Madden. The merit of its abolition, if that should be accomplished, which seems certain, will belong to Dr Madden, and not to us. He was the first to expose it. We have but seconded his efforts in a feeble, but at all events an earnest, spirit. The cause of humanity is a neutral ground, on which persons of all politics and prejudices may fairly meet. On this ground we have offered the right hand of fellowship to Dr Madden. On all other questions we are, we doubt not, still *à l'outrance*." Let but the British press act in this noble and generous spirit, and the best results must ensue.—*Anti-Slavery Reporter*.

A GREAT MAN.—A few weeks ago (it was since I became your victim), a dear friend of mine, a barrister and an author, said to me—"I was lately in conversation with Sir E. —. (That baronet is more eminent for his writings than for his senatorial achievements.) I observed, 'This is an age without one great man.' 'By no means,' answered the baronet, 'we have one great man.' 'Who is he?' I inquired. 'Sir James Graham; he is a great man,' was the answer of my friend. I was amazed: I looked astonished. I said, 'Sir James Graham! He a great man! You are joking, Sir E.' 'No! I am not joking,' in a very serious tone, was the reply. 'Do explain yourself. I cannot imagine that you really believe Sir James Graham to be a great man.' The baronet continued: 'I have seen Sir James Graham in the house of Commons, night after night, rise, surrounded by colleagues whom he has for years denounced in the most abusive language which the forms of the house would permit; I have heard him defend principles and measures which, for many years, he was accustomed to oppose; I have listened to him while he has denounced every measure which he formerly supported; I have heard him disprove all that he had formerly advocated, and demonstrate every principle as right, which he had been accustomed to refute as wrong; in fact, I have heard him unsay everything which he had previously advanced, and contradict all that he had formerly asserted.' 'True enough,' I added; 'but surely you do not therefore think him entitled to the appellation of a great man?' 'Not exactly so,' responded the M.P.; 'hear me out. I have seen and heard all this, and, in a full house, I have remarked that Sir James Graham was, while thus engaged, the only member without a blush—the only man who did not, at the moment, show any consciousness of shame! Hence I think I am justified in saying, that Sir James Graham can do that which no other man has done or can do—ergo, Sir James Graham is a great man.' —*Oastler's Fleet Papers*.

METHOD OF PASSING BILLS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—The occasional visitor of the house cannot but be struck with the art and mystery of law-making, as developed in what is called the "preliminary business." Last month I said something of the ceremony of presenting petitions, which has all the outward show and resemblance of mockery, though, doubtless, it has some innate virtue of which the initiated are aware. A few words now upon even more important business. When I entered the house on the 11th of March, I found Sir H. Douglas, whom I saw admitted a member on the corn-law night, now in the centre of the throng of legislation. He stood at the bar with a pile of papers at his right hand, on a little table, of which there is one at each side as one passes through what is called the bar of the body of the house:—"Sir Howard Douglas," shouted the speaker, from the chair. "A bill, sir," answered Sir Howard. "Please to bring it up," exclaimed the speaker. Up walks Sir Howard, and places the bill in the hands of the clerk of the house, returning again himself as quickly as possible to his former station at the bar. Mumble, mumble went the clerk, making believe to read the title, or a part of the title, of the bill; but no one, I suppose, could tell what he said. All the time the buzz of private talk was going on in the house, the speaker's voice predominating in such words as these:—"That this bill be read a first time;"—buzz, buzz—"Contrary opinion say no; ayes have it." "That this bill be read a second time"—buzz, buzz, buzz—"say aye; contrary opinion say no. The ayes have it." Buzz, buzz—"Sir Howard Douglas," again shouts the speaker. "A bill, sir," again answers Sir Howard. And so the whole ceremony was gone through three times, and I was aware that three bills (private bills no doubt) had passed through two of their stages; but though I had the honour of "assisting," as the French say, at their first and second reading, I can most truly aver, that I know no more of the purport of the said bills than I do of the Pope's opinion concerning the number of tumblers of whisky punch which it is lawful for a man to drink on St Patrick's day, when it happens to fall upon a Friday in Lent.—*Dublin University Magazine*.

PUBLIC HEALTH.—In a late number of the *Lancet* is a communication from Mr Curtis, the aurist, drawing the attention of the profession to the step recently taken by the bankers to shorten the hours of business, and stating his intention to endeavour to procure the adoption of a similar measure throughout the trades in London and elsewhere. He has already obtained the consent of many of the principal linendrapers, as he did that of the bankers, and does not doubt that the proceeding will be general. With the milliners but little good, he fears, can be done, save by legislative measures; and he states that a bill to control their hours of labour, the same as for the factory girls, will be introduced next session. His attention was first directed to the inquiry which has prompted his remarks, we understand, by finding that many cases of deafness were caused by close confinement, want of exercise, and impure air.

Religious Intelligence.

The Rev. J. WEBB, of Arnsby, Leicestershire, has accepted a unanimous invitation to the pastoral office from the baptist church at Stoke green, Ipswich, and will shortly commence his labours in that place.

The Rev. Mr STALLYBRASS was unanimously elected as an assistant to the Rev. Mr Adkins, of Southampton, by a very large church meeting at the Above Bar chapel, on Friday last. The reverend gentleman will commence his labours in March.

MANCHESTER.—On Wednesday evening, January 18th, the Rev. Thomas Gardner Lee, who has successfully laboured, for some time past, at Chorlton Town-hall, was publicly recognised as the pastor of the independent church, assembling in New Windsor chapel, Salford. The Rev. James Groyther read the scriptures and prayed; the Rev. J. Griffin delivered the introductory discourse on the nature, character, and government of a Christian church. The Rev. Dr Halley proposed the usual questions, and received the most satisfactory replies; after which he affectionately commended the newly elected pastor and his charge to the special blessing of the great Head of the church: the Rev. Richard Fletcher then addressed them both, on their respective duties and responsibilities, from Heb. xiii. 17; and the Rev. John Birt concluded with prayer.

MARRIAGES.

Jan. 29, at Zion chapel, Maidstone, by the Rev. R. Pingree, Mr RICHARD LLOYD, to Miss ELLEN RUSSELL, both of Maidstone.

DEATHS.

Jan. 31, at Winchmore hill, Middlesex, of consumption, aged 21 years, JOHN, the beloved son of John RADFORD. His end was peace.

Jan. 31, at his house, Chapel street, Bradford, Yorkshire, after a long affliction, the Rev. PHILIP GARRETT, superintendent of the Bradford East circuit, aged 72 years.

Jan. 31, at his house, in Manchester terrace, Islington, Mr FREDERIC PITMAN, assistant secretary of the Christian Instruction society, aged 37.

Feb. 1, THOMAS, infant son of the Rev. T. Hall, Crick, Northamptonshire.

Feb. 4, at Finchfield, Essex, aged 33, MARY, the wife of Mr C. W. WILLISHER, and second daughter of the late John Chapman, Gent. of Fulbourn.

Trade and Commerce.

LONDON GAZETTE.

Friday, Feb. 3.

BANKRUPTS.

CARTWRIGHT, ROBERT THOMPSON, Louth, Lincolnshire, woolen draper, Feb. 15, March 17; solicitors, Messrs Peter Wells, jun., and Robert Wells, Kingston-upon-Hull, and Messrs Horsfall and Harrison, Leeds.

CASWELL, GEORGE THOMAS, Birmingham, glass dealer, and Wolverhampton, pump maker, Feb. 13, Mar. 11; solicitors, Messrs A. and T. S. Ryland, Birmingham, and Mr Buckling, Birmingham.

CRAIG, EDWARD, Kendal, Westmoreland, innkeeper, Feb. 14, March 20; solicitors, Mr Shephard, Grosvenor-street, London, and Mr Fearenside, Burton.

CUTBUSH, FREDERICK, Kennington, seedsman, Feb. 10, March 17; solicitors, Messrs Francis and Son, Monument-yard.

HERRIDGE, THOMAS, 1, Upper Wharton-street, Clerkenwell, builder, Feb. 15, March 8; solicitor, Mr Wells, Wilmington square.

KNOWLES, THOMAS, LEWIS, DANIEL, and DODD, EDWARD, Dudley, foundrymen, Feb. 11, March 9; solicitor, Mr Shaw, Dudley.

LANE, HERVEY, Derby, innkeeper, Feb. 10, March 17; solicitor, Mr J. Blackburn, Leeds.

MARSHALL, WILLIAM, Worthing, Sussex, butcher, Feb. 11, March 21; solicitors, Messrs Palmer and Co., Bedford-row.

MAYS, WILLIAM, Brigstock, Northamptonshire, feltmonger, Feb. 17, March 10; solicitors, Messrs Cook and Saunders, New inn.

MOSS, THOMAS, Newport-grange, Yorkshire, brickmaker, Feb. 10, March 17; solicitors, Messrs England and Shackles, Hull.

MOSS, WILLIAM, Kingston-upon-Hull, woolen draper, Feb. 10, March 17; solicitors, Messrs England and Shackles, Hull.

NORTON, ALEXANDER, Edward's-street, Portman-square, upholsterer, Feb. 11, March 24; solicitor, Mr Kinsey, Bloomsbury square.

NOWELL, ISABELLA, now or late of Huddersfield, currier, Feb. 14, March 7; solicitor, Mr Lacock, Huddersfield.

OLLESHAW, EDWARD, Manchester, hat manufacturer, Feb. 14, March 7; solicitors, Messrs Bagshaw and Stevenson, Manchester, and Messrs Johnson and Co., King's-bench-walk, Temple, London.

PARKER, HUGH, SHORE, OFFLEY, BREWIN, JOHN, and RODGERS, JOHN, Sheffield, bankers, Feb. 15, 17, March 1, 8, 15; solicitor, Mr A. Smith, Sheffield.

PICKSLAY, CHARLES, Sheffield, merchant, Feb. 14, March 14; solicitors, Mr T. W. Rodgers, Sheffield, and Mr Sykes, Leeds.

PRESLAND, SAMUEL, and OSBALDISTON, HENRY JOHN, Castle-court, Lawrence-lane, warehousemen, Feb. 10, March 14; solicitors, Messrs Bower and Back, Chancery-lane, London, and Messrs Barlow and Asson, Manchester.

ROBINSON, LING, Ballylinton, Essex, millwright, Feb. 17, Mar. 15; solicitors, Messrs Raimondi and Gooday, 14, South-square, Gray's-inn.

THOMPSON, GEORGE, and CRESWELL, EDWARD, Manchester, solicitors, Feb. 21, March 7; solicitors, Messrs Emmett and Allen, Bloomsbury-square, London.

WHISTON, RICHARD, Clun, Shropshire, shoemaker, Feb. 13, March 9; solicitor, Mr Evan William, Knighton.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

NICHOLSON, WILLIAM, Drummuir, Dumfries-shire, farmer, Feb. 10, March 3.

SANDILANDS, WILLIAM, Kilmarnock, cooper, Feb. 10, Mar. 14.

SINCLAIR, GEORGE MILLER, Edinburgh, stockbroker, Feb. 11, March 4.

SMITH, JOHN, Calton, Glasgow, victualer, Feb. 8, March 1.

THOMSON, WILLIAM, and SON, Dalkeith, wrights, Feb. 8, March 1.

Tuesday, February 7.

The following buildings are certified as places duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to the act of 6 and 7 William IV., cap. 85:—

Hadham-ford chapel, Little Hadham, Hertfordshire. George Welch, superintendent registrar.

Siloa chapel, Llanelly, Carmarthenshire. William Rees, superintendent registrar.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

TONLINSON, WILLIAM, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, maltster.

BAN RUPT.

RANDS, JOSEPH, Southampton, boot and shoe dealer, Feb. 15, March 21; solicitor, Mr Wilson, Aldermanbury.

BERRY, THOMAS, Lewes, Sussex, brewer, Feb. 14, March 17; solicitors, Messrs Dimmock and Burdett, Sise lane.

DENVER, WILLIAM, and NIXEY, WILLIAM, Liverpool, woolen drapers, Feb. 17, March 17; solicitors, Messrs Morecroft and Son, Liverpool, and Messrs Chester and Toulmin, 11, Staple inn, London.

ELLIOT, JOHN, Sheffield, merchant, Feb. 24, March 22; solicitors, Mr Thomas Branson, Sheffield; and Mr Fiddey, Temple, London.

ELLIOT, ROBERT, Sheffield, merchant, Feb. 24, March 22;

solicitors, Mr Thomas Branson, Sheffield, and Mr Fiddey, Temple, London.

GORDON, JAMES, Liverpool, merchant, Feb. 15, March 17; solicitors, Messrs Lowndes and Co., Liverpool, and Messrs Sharpe and Co., Bedford row, London.

JONES, WILLIAM, Cardiff and Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorganshire, ship builder, Feb. 28, March 21; solicitors, Messrs Clarke and Co., Lincoln's inn fields, London; and Messrs Savery and Co., Bristol.

OVERINGTON, JOHN, Arundel, Sussex, plumber, Feb. 14, March 17; solicitor, Mr Braithwaite, 15, Sergeant's inn, Fleet street.

REYNOLDS, THOMAS, jun., 32, Great St Helen's, Bishops-gate street, merchant, Feb. 23, March 21; solicitors, Messrs Barker and Rose, 50, Marl lane, Fenchurch street.

VAN, JOHN, late of 10, Little Britain, London, but now of Milton next Gravesend, gold lace manufacturer, Feb. 23, March 21; solicitors, Messrs Brown, Martin, and Thomas, Commercial sale rooms, Mincing lane.

WALKER, JOHN, Hayfield, Derbyshire, grocer, Feb. 21, March 17; solicitors, Mr Henry Turner, Stockport, Cheshire, and Messrs Pocock and Wilkins, 59, Bartholomew close, London.

WALKER, THOMAS, now or late of Kirkstall, Yorkshire, brewer, Feb. 24, March 17; solicitor, Mr Richard Hartley, Sagar, Kirkstall.

WOOD, JOHN, Bean Vale, Nottingham, miller, Feb. 21, March 16; solicitors, Messrs Johnson and Co., Temple, London, and Mr John Bowley, Nottingham.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

FOOTE, WILLIAM, Craigend, Perthshire, potato dealer, Feb. 14, March 7.

FORSYTH, JOHN, Edinburgh, builder, Feb. 13, March 6.

M'GRIGOR, ALEXANDER, Glasgow, cabinet maker, Feb. 10, March 3.

BITCHIE, THOMAS, Edinburgh, printer, Feb. 13, March 6.

BRITISH FUNDS.

The funds have continued steady since our last, but no business of consequence has been transacted. The news by the overland mail is considered satisfactory, and has imparted additional firmness to the quotations.

	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
3 per cent. Consols	94½	94½	94½	95	94½	
Ditto for Account	95	94½	94½	95	95	
3 per cents Reduced	95½	95½	95½	95½	95½	
3½ per cts. Reduced	102½	102	102½	102½	102½	
New 3½ per cent.	100½	101½	101½	101½	101½	
Long Annuities	12½	12	12½	12½	12½	
Bank Stock	173	173	173	174	174	
India Stock	—	266	267	268	—	
Exchequer Bills	63pm	63pm	64pm	64pm	65pm	
India Bonds	—	61pm	60pm	—	—	

RAILWAY SHARES.

Birmingham and Derby	41	London and Brighton	37½
Birmingham & Gloucester	48	London & Croydon Trunk	9½
Blackwall	5	London and Greenwich	5½
Bristol and Exeter	51	Ditto New	—
Cheltenham & Gt. Western	30	Manchester & Birm.	—
Eastern Counties	83	Manchester and Leeds	69
Edinburgh and Glasgow	—	Midland Counties	64½
Great North of England	—	Ditto Quarter Shares	—
Great Western	93	North Midland	63½
Ditto New	65	Ditto New	—
Ditto Fifths	—	South Eastern and Dover	22½
London and Birmingham	210	South Western	64
Ditto Quarter Shares	48	Ditto New	—

FOREIGN FUNDS.

Austrian	111	Mexican	32
Belgian	103	Peruvian	18½
Brazilian	75	Portuguese 5 per cents	43
Buenos Ayres	23½	Ditto 3 per cents	—
Columbian	23½	Russian	116
Danish	86	Spanish Active	19
Dutch 2½ per cents	53	Ditto Passive	4
Ditto 5 per cents	102½	Ditto Deferred	102½

MARKETS.

GRAIN, MARK LANE, Feb. 6.

There was a small show of wheat this morning, and the condition of the samples being more or less improved by the frosty state of the weather, an advance of 1s. to 2s. per quarter was generally realised.

Barley found buyers at about previous prices.

Beans were very dull of sale though not cheaper.

Superior white boiling peas were held with rather more firmness.

Oats were in tolerably good request, and fully as dear as on Monday last.

Wheat, Red New .. 46 to 50

Fine .. 48 .. 52

White .. 48 .. 52

Fine .. 52 .. 57

Rye .. 30 .. 34

Barley .. 23 .. 26

Malting .. 26 to 32

Beans, Pigeon .. 30 to 32</

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whether they shall be turned from the doors, and thus cast into

hopeless misery and ruin, or whether they shall be protected,

and thus provided with the means of becoming virtuous and

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his victims—to save these "little ones" from perishing?"

Shall it be said, We have gold for our pleasures, gold for our

luxuries, gold, alas! for our vices; but that when we are called

to do God's will, and to save these His "little ones" from per-

ishing, any trifles will do for God? It is between God and you.

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							Years.	Years.	£	£	s. d.
7	59	1,000	163 11 0	63 0	27 17 2	44					
7	46	1,000	115 12 0	40 8 16 3	3 5	40					
7	33	2,000	177 10 0	54 1 8 30 11 6	6	32					
7	32	500	44 7 0	13 2 11 5 1 4	4	39					
6	52	2,000	227 19 0	87 11 8 34 5 10	5	35					
6	50	1,000	166 5 0	45 10 10 15 10 7	7	34					
6	31	500	37 2 0	15 8 0 4 1 2	5	32					
5	51	1,000	91 3 0	47 2 6 13 6 4	6	28					
5	41	2,000	146 13 0	69 10 0 18 11 0	7	26					
5	30	600	37 2 0	15 8 0 4 1 2	5	26					
4	42	500	28 19 0	17 12 1 3 13 3	3	20					
4	28	1,000	46 14 0	24 3 4 16 5	5	19					
3	46	800	37 8 0	31 18 8 4 18 10	10	15					
3	25	2,000	69 6 0	44 5 0 6 14 11							